

Make the Roads Safe



**MESSAGE FROM
GENERAL MANAGER & CEO DEBRA COLE**

SAFETY IS, WAS AND ALWAYS WILL BE A PRIORITY AT HILCO

Electric Cooperative. This includes the safety of you, our members, as well as that of our employees.

We are proud of our safety record and the measures that we put in place to safeguard those who work to bring you a steady supply of electricity. That especially goes for our lineworkers and support crews, who have some of the most dangerous jobs around.



BURWELL AND BURWELL PHOTOGRAPHY / ISTOCK

While some of our crews' most dangerous work is high in the sky, distracted drivers on the ground also pose a significant risk.

narrow roads that run through our service territory. It's in these situations that you can help keep your electric cooperative workers safe.

If you see utility vehicles and line crews working, give them and the road ahead all of your attention.

Slow down and, if it is safe, move over to give crews as much space as possible.

Respect traffic cones, and flashing lights and other signals. They could be the only thing between your car and workers or equipment.

With your cooperation, the dangers of line work don't have to be increased by traffic. There is much our crews can do to enhance their safety, but there's not much protection from a distracted driver.

Please be careful, be aware, slow down and help protect HILCO EC's most valuable asset: our people.

Our constant focus on safety includes meetings and classes in which employees receive training in staying safe around dangerous equipment and in hazardous situations. Our co-op's strategic plan always contains a strong safety component designed to keep our workers and the public out of harm's way. 20272506

Working around electricity, often far above the ground and in all weather conditions, is inherently dangerous. But not all the dangers our employees face come from the weather, climbing or power lines. If you are not paying attention when you are behind the wheel, the danger might come from *you*.

Sometimes the job of building a line or restoring power places our crews at the sides of



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

- Joseph Tedesco, President, *District 4*
- Bill Allen, Vice President, *District 5*
- Janet Smith, Secretary-Treasurer, *District 7*
- Leroy Huff, *District 1*
- Margaret Hill, *District 2*
- George Thiess, *District 6*
- Ron Roberts, *District 3*

Operating in Dallas, Ellis, Hill, Johnson and McLennan counties

GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO

Debra A. Cole

COOPERATIVE OFFICES

Itasca Headquarters

115 E. Main St. • P.O. Box 127
Itasca 76055
(254) 687-2331, 1-800-338-6425

Midlothian

300A Silken Crossing, Midlothian 76065
(972) 723-2900

Whitney

4581 FM 933, Whitney 76692
(254) 694-5237, 1-888-850-6551

Elm Mott

298 S. Connally Drive, Elm Mott 76640



CONTACT US

For information during office hours and outages after hours:

CALL US

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1-800-338-6425 toll-free

EMAIL

hilco@hilco.coop

FIND US ON THE WEB

hilco.coop



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HILCO ELECTRIC WISHES YOU A

Happy Presidents Day! | February 19



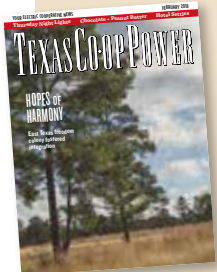
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WE LOVE OUR MEMBERS!

Happy Valentine's Day
February 14

Win a \$50 Bill Credit!

As you're reading your *Texas Co-op Power*, look for the "hidden" account numbers in the local HILCO pages in the center of the magazine. If it's YOUR electric account number, call us before the end of February—you have won a \$50 credit on your HILCO electric bill!



(254) 687-2331
or
1-800-338-6425



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Power Tip

Looking for an easy way to make your home cozier? Try using area rugs to increase the insulation levels of your floors. Area rugs are stylish and can help keep cool air from entering through your flooring. Your toes will thank you!

February Bulletin

February 1

Waco

Stars Over Texas Jamboree
Lee Lockwood Library & Museum
7-10 p.m.

February 10

Whitney

Chocolate Festival
Laguna Park
More info: (254) 622-2665

February 11-12

Waco

Home Product Show
Extraco Events Center
10 a.m.-5 p.m.
\$5 per person

February 24

Waxahachie

The Uptown Singers—Best of Broadway
Hagee Communications Center
More info: (817) 983-3515

BILLING SCHEDULE

Payments are due by close of business at 5 p.m. on the due date.

CYCLE 1

Billing Date February 6
Due Date February 22

CYCLE 2

Billing Date February 13
Due Date March 1

CYCLE 3

Billing Date February 20
Due Date March 8

CYCLE 13

Billing Date February 21
Due Date March 8

CYCLE 4

Billing Date February 27
Due Date March 15

New Year, New Rebates

Energy efficiency rebates are available for 2018

HILCO OFFERS A VARIETY OF SERVICES TO ITS MEMBERS. OUR energy efficiency rebate program is just one of those many services. The goal for this program is to help our members make wise energy decisions by encouraging the purchase of energy-efficient products.

Finding and Applying for Rebates Is Easy

Below are just a few of the rebates available to HILCO Electric members. For a complete list, visit our website or call the office for assistance. 4705819503



New Home Rebate

If you are building a home, contact our office so we can offer more information to help you claim the Energy Star rebate for new homes. If you already have built a home, you may still qualify for the rebate with necessary documentation.

Renewables Rebates

New this year, HILCO will offer a solar installation rebate to members who install solar panels. With so many days of sunshine in Texas, solar installations continue to grow, and every day more and more people are interested in how they can generate energy for their home. If you're interested, call our office for information.

Smart Thermostat

Heating and cooling account for nearly half of your home's energy costs. A smart thermostat offers automation and greater control over your home's temperature and climate—control that could save you a bundle on your energy bill.

HVAC Tuneup

Having your HVAC unit serviced by a certified professional technician helps to keep heat pump and central air conditioning units operating at top efficiency. A tuneup by a service professional can improve unit efficiency by as much as 20 percent.

Insulation Upgrade

If you have inadequate insulation, this upgrade offers you the biggest bang for your efficiency dollars. Bringing insulation up to current standards could save you anywhere from 10–50 percent on heating and cooling bills.

Contact Us for More Information

If you'd like to improve your home's energy efficiency but don't know where to start, call the HILCO office and a member services representative will lead you in the right direction.

In addition to finding ways for you to save more energy, HILCO also offers a complimentary in-home energy audit if you're considering making home improvements. We will check your home's insulation, examine doors and windows

for air tightness, and more.

Rebate funds are limited. Once funds are depleted, no further rebates will be issued for the year.

For more information:
Visit hilco.coop/rebate-programs
Call 1-800-338-6425

HILCO Staff Achievement Awards

THE HILCO BOARD OF DIRECTORS HONORED THE EMPLOYEES OF HILCO Electric Cooperative and HILCO United Services at their annual awards presentation in December.

HILCO General Manager/CEO Debra Cole welcomed past and present board members, current and retired employees, and special guests, including past and present members of the Operation Round Up Trust Board and representatives from KBS Electrical Distributors. The event was hosted by the staff of the new HILCO Civic & Event Center, and Atlanta magician Arthur Atsma provided entertainment for the evening.



Director Ron Roberts, 10 years of service



Vivian Barlett, Thomas Cheek and Kent Smith, 20 years of service



**Sue Rivera,
15 years of service**



**Todd Anderson,
15 years of service**



**Danny Taylor and Mary
Campbell, 15 years of service**



**Will Garnett, HUS,
10 years of service**



**Michelle Rickett, Kane Montgomery, Lance Henkelman,
Sam Wilson, Jason Marbut, Saralynn Ainsworth,
Kendra Markwardt and Director Ron Roberts, 10 years of service**



**Russell Shivers, Hollis Cunningham
and Stephanie Balderas, 15 years of service**

Look Who's New to the **Co-op Connections** Program at **HILCO EC**

The Co-op Connections card is another benefit of being a HILCO member. This **FREE** card delivers discounts from local and national businesses, as well as savings on prescriptions and other health care services.

Save money at these featured local businesses with your Co-op Connections card!



Midlothian Plumbing

Midlothian

10% off labor

(214) 684-7289

Relic + Root

Midlothian

10% off

(972) 775-5554

Main Street Gym

Midlothian

50% off initiation fee

(972) 554-4205

Cool Cole's BBQ

Itasca

Free drink with any plate
of one meat or more

(254) 205-8069

Today Movers Inc.

Midlothian

15% off or free estimate

(972) 775-8111

Check out additional card benefits and deals at connections.coop. To request a replacement card at no charge, contact Kendra Markwardt at 1-800-338-3425, ext. 1145, or Dana Edwards at ext. 1116.



HILCO Electric Scholarship for Excellence

Application Deadline April 16, 2018

Do you aspire to go to college or vocational school?

If you're a high school senior with the strong desire to attend **college** or **trade school**, we can help. Every year we award scholarships to young men and women to help make their dreams a reality.


Who can apply?

Any graduating high school seniors who are dependents of HILCO members and meet the eligibility requirements listed on the application.

How to apply

Visit www.hilco.coop and download the application

For more information on our scholarship program call 800-338-6425 or email Kendra Markwardt at kmarkwardt@hilco.coop

Follow us on 



WHAT TO DO IF ...

You Encounter a Downed Power Line

EVEN IF EVERY HOME IN YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD loses electricity during a storm, a power line hanging loose could very well be “live” and electrocute you if you touch it.

Just because the electricity is out doesn’t mean power lines are dead. **So if you see one, follow these tips to stay safe:**

- ▶ Don’t touch a power line with your hand, body, a stick, a broom—not with anything. Stay as far away from it as possible.
- ▶ Call 911 and your electric cooperative.
- ▶ If your car or another person is touching a downed line, don’t touch your car or that person. The power could flow through them and into you.
- ▶ Don’t drive over a downed wire.
- ▶ If a line falls on your car while you’re in it, stay inside. The ground around your car could be energized, and if you touch it, you could be electrocuted. Warn others to stay away and call 911 for help.
- ▶ Teach children about the dangers of fallen power lines.



Insulate To Feel Great

DO YOU EVER FEEL A CHILL, CRANK UP THE HEAT, HEAR THE FURNACE KICK ON ... then feel no warmer? Your home might need better insulation.

Heat flows from a warmer spot to a cooler one until there is no longer a temperature difference. This means that in winter, heat flows directly from heated living spaces in your home to any adjacent garage, or unheated attic and outdoors.

Properly insulating your home decreases this flow by providing resistance. Unless your home was specially constructed for energy efficiency, you probably can reduce your energy bills by adding more insulation.

Inspect and Evaluate

To determine whether you should add insulation, find out:

- ▶ Where your home is, isn’t and should be insulated.
- ▶ The type, R-value and thickness of insulation you already have.

Check the walls, floors and ceilings in unheated spaces such as the attic and garage. Structural elements usually are exposed in these areas, which makes it easy to see the type and thickness of surrounding insulation.

To inspect exterior wall insulation through an electrical outlet:

1. Turn off power to the outlet.
 2. Remove the cover and shine a flashlight into the gap around the outlet box. You should be able to see if there is insulation in the wall and possibly how thick it is.
 3. Pull out a small amount of insulation, if needed, to help determine its type.
- Use this method to check outlets on all floors in old and new parts of your house. Just because you find insulation in one wall doesn’t mean it’s everywhere in the house.

Choose the Right Insulation

Once you’ve figured out the types of existing insulation and their thicknesses, consult the U.S. Department of Energy’s online insulation fact sheet at energy.gov/energysaver/insulation to determine the corresponding R-values.

Once you find out the R-values of your existing insulation, you then can use the Home Energy Saver tool at hes.lbl.gov to determine how much insulation you need to add and where to add it for maximum energy efficiency.

Select the proper type of insulation for your home once you know where you’ll be installing the new stuff and what R-value you want the installation to achieve.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



To Repair or Replace?

That is the appliance question

AS HOMEOWNERS WITH BILLS TO PAY, OUR TENDENCY IS TO BUY AN APPLIANCE AND keep it running as long as possible—but this may not be the greatest strategy for energy efficiency. Old, inefficient appliances bloat electric bills because they eat up more energy than they're worth.

To figure out how much energy your appliances use, check for an energy efficiency label. The amount of energy typically used per year is listed in kilowatt-hours. If a label is not available, a home inspector can estimate energy use by determining the age of the appliances in the house and assessing their operation by checking for signs of wear and damage. 4400181007

To translate this energy use into electric expense, check your utility bill to find out the kilowatt-hour rate, then multiply the rate by the number of kilowatt-hours your appliance uses per year to figure out the annual cost it takes to operate the appliance. By adding this figure to the initial purchase and repair costs of the appliance, you then have a comparison level to decide whether your appliance would cost you more or less to run than a new one.

If your appliance is nearing the end of its life span, it's time to calculate whether repairing it or replacing it will cost more. **Here are some typical life spans of appliances:**

- Dishwasher:** 13 years
- Air conditioner:** 15 years
- Microwave:** 15 years
- Refrigerator:** 15 years

- Washer/dryer:** 16 years
- Furnace:** 17 years
- Range:** 18 years

Consider improvements to some of the biggest energy-using appliances in the household. A new refrigerator uses about 50 percent less energy than older models and can feature a CFC-free, sealed system, more storage and easier cleaning.

A new washer or dryer unit uses 30 percent less energy than older models and features greater capacity, better cleaning, quieter operation, preprogrammed cycle selections, reduced water usage and dryness sensors.

As a result of technological improvements made by appliance manufacturers, newer machines not only use less electricity but also have more operational features and are made to last longer than counterparts produced within even the last decade.

Chocolate Pots de Crème

- 6 egg yolks**
- 6 ounces dark chocolate chips**
- 3 tablespoons sugar**
- 2 cups heavy cream**

- 1.** Combine egg yolks, chocolate and sugar in a blender and pulse a few times.
- 2.** Heat cream to simmering, then pour over top of chocolate mixture and blend immediately on high 1–2 minutes, until chocolate has melted.
- 3.** Pour into individual serving dishes or one large dish and cover with plastic wrap placed directly on surface of custard. This will prevent a skin from forming on top.
- 4.** Chill at least one hour in refrigerator.

OPTIONAL: Add 1 teaspoon grated orange zest and ¼ cup orange juice to blender before adding hot cream. Sprinkle dash of sea salt on top before covering.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at
TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM