

Why We Plan Outages



MESSAGE FROM GENERAL MANAGER AND CEO DEBRA A. COLE

HAVE YOU EVER RECEIVED a notification from the folks here at HILCO Electric Cooperative informing you of a planned outage? You may have wondered, “What is a planned outage?” and “Why does my electric co-op need to schedule an outage?”

Occasionally, the equipment we use to bring power to your home needs to be replaced, repaired or updated. The necessary work often cannot be done without de-energizing the lines and cutting power temporarily. When we need to do such work, as a way to keep our crews and you safe, we plan an interruption to electric service.

We do our best to plan these outages during times when members will be least inconvenienced, so we often perform planned outages during school and business hours. We also try to avoid planning these outages during winter or summer months. We understand that these are the times of the year when you depend most heavily on running your heating and cooling units.

Although slightly inconvenient, a planned outage is actually beneficial to you. Regular system upgrades are necessary for optimal performance, and they increase reliability. Repairing and upgrading our equipment is also critical to maintaining public safety. If older lines need to be replaced, we plan and schedule the work, notify the members who will be affected, then repair or replace the equipment—and that helps keep everyone safe.

Planned outages also allow us to keep you informed of when and how long you will be without power. We can notify you several days before an outage, so you can be prepared. We also keep you aware of when line crews will be working in your area.

Here at HILCO EC, we want to make sure we are doing everything we can to keep you safe and keep our system running smoothly. So the next time you hear about a planned outage, know that it is one of the best ways we can provide you with quality electric service.

Sometimes, when electrical equipment needs to be replaced or repaired, your co-op plans an outage—and we notify you beforehand so you can prepare.



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, Texas 76055
 (254) 687-2331
 1-800-338-6425

Midlothian

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

Whitney

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



CONTACT US

For information during office hours and outages after hours:

CALL US

(254) 687-2331 local or
1-800-338-6425 toll-free

EMAIL

hilco@hilco.coop

FIND US ON THE WEB

hilco.coop



“NOT WHAT WE SAY ABOUT OUR BLESSINGS, BUT HOW WE USE THEM, IS THE TRUE MEASURE OF OUR THANKSGIVING.”
—W.T. PURKISER

HILCO Electric Cooperative wishes you and yours a richly blessed Thanksgiving.

Our offices will be closed Thursday and Friday, November 26–27, to allow our employees time to celebrate the holiday with their families.



**Veterans Day
November 11**

HILCO EC thanks all veterans for their service.

NOVEMBER Bulletin

November 1

Daylight Savings Time

Ends 2 a.m. Sunday; set clocks back 1 hour.

November 13–15

WWII Re-enactment

Waxahachie downtown at 3 p.m.

November 14

Ellis County Veterans Appreciation Day

Waxahachie Civic Center

November 20–21

Waxahachie 3rd Annual Festival of Trees—Home for the Holidays

Waxahachie Bible Church, 621 N. Grand Ave. Benefits Habitat for Humanity of Ellis County. Call (972) 937-2797 or email elliscountyhfh@gmail.com.

November 27–29

Homestead Heritage Homestead Fair

608 Dry Creek Road, Waco. Contact info@sustainlife.org or (254) 754-9600, or visit homesteadfair.com.

BILLING SCHEDULE

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

CYCLE 1

Billing Date November 3

Due Date November 19

CYCLE 2

Billing Date November 10

Due Date November 26

CYCLE 3

Billing Date November 17

Due Date December 3

CYCLE 13

Billing Date November 18

Due Date December 3

CYCLE 4

Billing Date November 24

Due Date December 10

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A Message From The HILCO Board of Directors

Welcome to Your Hometown Co-op

OUR COMMUNITIES HAVE CHANGED quiet a bit over the years. As a kid, many of you may remember buying groceries and hardware at local mom-and-pop stores. Most are long gone these days, driven out by national retailers.

With most things today becoming more generic, focusing on profits rather than the people, it's nice to know we still have locally owned and operated businesses we can count on, such as HILCO Electric Cooperative.

By receiving electricity from the co-op, you're a member and owner of the business. Your voice is heard every year at the HILCO EC Annual Meeting, where you join hundreds of other members to elect folks like us to represent your concerns on a daily basis.

We are members, just like you, and elected by you to form your board of directors. Your co-op is managed by educators,

nurses, business owners, fathers and mothers who live near you. We want what you want: affordable electric bills and the comfort of knowing the lights will turn on when you flip the switch.

With those goals in mind, we work throughout the year to invest in our electric system and keep power safe and reliable.

The board's role is simple: We look out for your interests because, quite frankly, we share them. We are elected to represent you, and that is what we are dedicated to doing.

We would like to thank all of you who voted and attended the HILCO EC Member Appreciation Picnic and Annual Meeting. We look forward to seeing you all next year.

Below is a map that shows the co-op's director districts and corresponding director. You can also visit our website, hilco.coop, for director biographies and additional information.

HILCO EC's district map with corresponding directors



Margaret Hill
District 2



Leroy Huff
District 1



Joe Tedesco
District 4



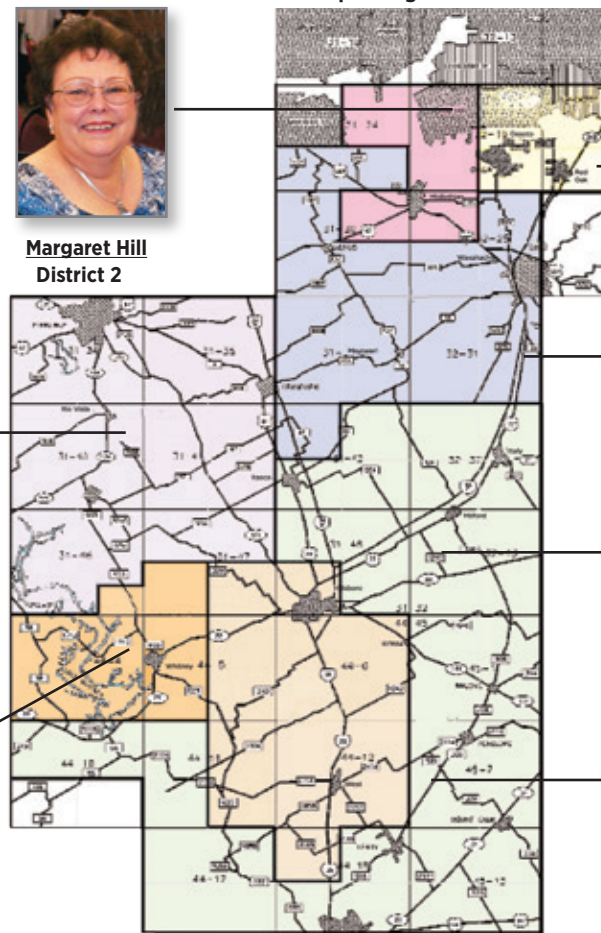
Bill Allen
District 5



Janet Smith
District 7



Ron Roberts
District 3



George Thiess
District 6



HILCO Members Honored at Picnic

ABUNDANT SUNSHINE AND PERFECT WEATHER SET THE STAGE for members as they arrived to celebrate HILCO EC's Annual Member Appreciation Picnic and Annual Meeting at the Waxahachie Civic Center on September 17.

Members were all smiles as they were greeted by employees passing out HILCO-branded canvas totes filled with tech goodies. The Fox Family Band entertained guests while Michna's Bar-B-Que & Catering served more than 740 members a heaping helping of mouth-watering barbecue.

As members found their seats, laughter followed and filled the room as General Manager/CEO Debra A. Cole welcomed them with her popular jokes before turning the mic over to HILCO Board President George Thies to give the blessing, followed by Assistant General Manager of Operations Thomas Cheek to lead the Pledge of Allegiance.

In her statement, Cole gave updates on the past year and offered suggestions on ways to conserve electricity. She also expressed her gratitude to the directors, staff and employees for attending the picnic.

As the evening drew near, members waited eagerly for the highly anticipated prize drawing. Assistant General Manager of Administration Paula Farquahar conducted the drawing with numerous HILCO employees assisting in handing out prizes. Names were drawn for a total of 28 great prizes. Thank you to Morgan and Alyssa Holder, daughters of Janet Holder, for assisting with the prize drawing. As always, the kids did an excellent job, and we appreciate their help.

A big "thank-you" goes to our vendors and subsidiaries for their generous contributions. HILCO US Propane—two 50-gallon deliveries of propane; T&D Solutions—scooter and helmet; and Schneider Engineering—\$100 Walmart gift card.

The event is hosted each year by the HILCO EC Board of Directors—President Joe Tedesco, Vice President Bill Allen, Secretary-Treasurer Jan Smith, Director Margaret Hill, Director Ron Roberts and Director Leroy Huff—and staff and employees to show their appreciation to the members of HILCO EC. We would like to thank everyone for coming out, and we look forward to seeing you all next year!

Pick the Perfect Place To Plant

THE RIGHT TREE PLANTED in the right place can add natural beauty to any landscape, but a tree in the wrong place can become expensive to maintain and even dangerous. Arbor Day presents the perfect opportunity to learn more about the benefits of tree planting and selecting the perfect tree for the right place in your yard.

Arbor Day, first celebrated in Nebraska in 1872, was celebrated April 25 this year in many states, but in Texas, it's celebrated the first Friday in November—this year, November 6. Whichever day Arbor Day is celebrated in your neighborhood, trees are traditionally planted in observance.

When considering tree placement, select a planting location that does not interfere with utility lines either in the air or underground. Tree branches can interfere with overhead power lines, and roots can do the same with underground utilities.

Power outages or interruptions occur when trees and branches come into contact with overhead lines. Electrical arcing and sparking from a wire to a nearby branch can cause a fire.

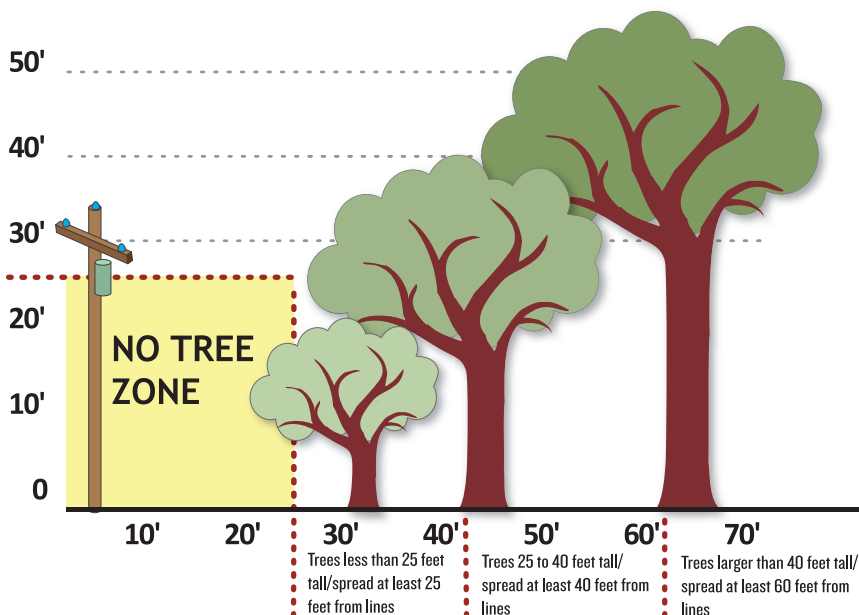
Tall-growing trees with a mature height of greater than 40 feet should be planted at least 50 feet away from lines to avoid the need for future pruning around electrical infrastructure. A mature height of less than 25 feet is recommended if planting nearer to lines. Keep in mind that trees should never be planted directly under—or closer than 20 feet on either side of—power lines, poles or electrical equipment.

Trees growing near power lines must be pruned to maintain a safe distance from the wires. If you have trees that are growing into power lines, contact your electric provider. Never try to prune them yourself. 134762501

Also, before any tree planting begins, make sure to call 811. The 811 “Call Before You Dig” service is free and locates and marks your public underground utilities so you can avoid buried lines when you dig.

Make sure to call a few workdays in advance of any digging project to give ample time for a professional to locate these utilities. Electrical, gas, water, cable and telephone lines can all be found beneath the ground.

For more information, visit arborday.com and call 811.com.



RECIPE OF THE MONTH



NIXKI | DOLLAR PHOTO CLUB

Veggie Bake

- 3 large zucchini
- 3 large yellow squash
- 1 large onion
- 8 ounces fresh mushrooms
- 3 large tomatoes
- 2 tablespoons minced garlic
- 1 cup balsamic vinaigrette salad dressing
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 3 tablespoons grated Parmesan cheese

1. Preheat oven to 350 degrees.
2. Slice zucchini, squash, onion and mushrooms, and layer into a 9-by-13-inch baking pan. Slice tomatoes and layer on top.
3. In a small bowl, combine garlic, salad dressing, salt and pepper. Pour over vegetables.
4. Sprinkle Parmesan over all. Cover with foil. Bake 30 minutes, then uncover and bake 15 minutes longer.

Find this and more delicious recipes online at TEXASCOOPPOWER.COM

HILCO Members Re-Elect Directors



Bill Allen
District 5



Joe Tedesco
District 4

The membership of HILCO Electric Cooperative voted to re-elect District 4 and District 5 members for three-year terms to the board of directors. The election results were announced at the annual business meeting held September 17 at the Waxahachie Civic Center in Waxahachie.

Bill Allen of Whitney, who ran unopposed, was re-elected to serve his fourth term representing District 5. Joe Tedesco of Midlothian, who also ran unopposed, was re-elected to serve his third term representing District 4.

These directors serve on the board along with Jan Smith, District 7, Hubbard; George Thiess, District 6, Hillsboro; Ron Roberts, District 3, Whitney; Leroy Huff, District 1, Midlothian; and Margaret Hill, District 2, Midlothian.

After the business meeting, the directors elected officers for the 2015–16 year. Tedesco will serve as president of the board of directors, Bill Allen will serve as vice-president, and Jan Smith will serve as secretary-treasurer.

HILCO General Manager/CEO Debra Cole said, “We appreciate Mr. Tedesco’s and Mr. Allen’s willingness to devote their time and energies to the board, representing members in their districts. We appreciate all of these board members assuming these immense responsibilities on behalf of our membership. We thank them for the many long hours they devote to the cooperative every month and for their dedication and loyalty to the members of the cooperative.”

All members of the HILCO Board of Directors are required to earn the certification of Credentialed Cooperative Director. They are required to act in good faith and make fair and sound business decisions. The ultimate decisions of each board member must always be based on the best interests of the cooperative’s members.

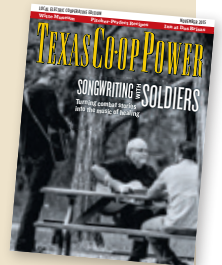


Power Tip

Don’t let vampires suck the life out of your energy-efficiency efforts! Unplugging unused electronics—otherwise known as “energy vampires”—can save you as much as 10 percent on your electric bill.

Win a \$50 Bill Credit!

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



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

THE TRIP OF A LIFETIME



GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION

YOUTH TOUR



You're a Texas high school junior or senior. You're smart; you have big dreams. Maybe you've never been out of the state, and maybe you've never flown on a plane, but you want to travel—experience a big city, visit historic landmarks and meet people. **Sound like you? Then the Government-in-Action Youth Tour is your tour.**

Start your adventure at TexasYouthTour.com
Visit [Facebook.com/TexasYouthTourAlumni](https://www.facebook.com/TexasYouthTourAlumni)
Scan the QR code to watch a Youth Tour video



FACES OF HILCO

Meet the People Who Work for You



Jordan Cordell has delivered exceptional service to HILCO EC members for more than seven years. Jordan began her career as a member services representative and transitioned to the position of assistant office manager of the Itasca office in 2013. Jordan is responsible for supervising office services staff, developing and monitoring office administration systems, and much more. Jordan strives to take care of each members' needs and says she enjoys working alongside her co-workers and assisting members.

In her free time, she likes to travel with her family and spend quality time with her daughter, Kaylee.

John Prescott has helped HILCO EC provide members with safe, reliable electricity for more than 18 years. As a first-class lineman, he is ready to take on the job 24/7 and works hard to ensure members get the service they deserve. John says that he appreciates the camaraderie of his fellow linemen and other co-workers, and looks forward to the interactions he has with members he meets while on the job.

When away from HILCO EC, he and his wife, Claudia, love spending time with their children and grandchildren. John is also an avid outdoorsman and loves riding his motorcycle.



Ben Austin has been committed to serving HILCO EC members with excellent service for more than seven years. Ben began his career as a groundsman in 2008, and has since honed his skills and put his expertise to work as a first-class lineman. Ben takes his job to heart, and putting members first is his top priority. Ben added that he enjoys working in new locations and encountering different members in the field.

During his time off, he enjoys fishing with friends and being the best father he can be to his three daughters. He and his wife, Kim, are expecting a baby boy soon.

Terri Ramirez has brought her friendly, warm spirit to HILCO EC members for more than seven years as a member services representative. Terri takes care of members' needs and assists in the AMR Department, monitoring and executing service orders and helping evening dispatchers. Terri takes pride in her job and says that she enjoys helping members and welcomes the challenges that her job can bring.

Terri and her husband, Louis, have three children and four grandchildren. During her time away from HILCO, her hobbies are sewing, reading, genealogy research, gardening and spending quality time with her family.



Clayton Thompson has been part of the HILCO family for more than seven years. As a first-class lineman, Clayton works hard to keep electricity flowing throughout HILCO's service area. Dedicated to his job, Clayton is quick to help members with any concerns they may have. He works hard to ensure members receive reliable service and are happy. Clayton also says that he enjoys the bond he shares with his fellow linemen. "It's a brotherhood like no other," he said.

In his downtime, Clayton enjoys fishing, golfing and spending time at home with his wife, Sarah, and two girls, Kynlie and Peyton.