

# BELFALLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

P.O. Box 598 · Rosebud, TX 76570 · Phone (254) 583-7955

## ELECTRICITY IS STILL A GOOD VALUE

**E**lectricity. We use it every day, and we could barely function without it. While the price of everything, including your electric bill, seems to be increasing, electric power is still a great value for the money.

Did you know that through the years, the price of electricity has remained relatively stable compared to the rising prices of related commodities? Prior to last year's hurricanes, the cost of 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity had increased just 5 percent over 12 months, far less than the cost of natural gas and other fuels.

We work diligently to provide for your power needs at the lowest possible costs. Because we are a nonprofit electric cooperative, we sell electricity with no markup to our members. Though factors—such as rising fuel costs—are often beyond our control, we work to manage costs to keep our members' bills low.

We are keeping down costs to distribute electricity from the cooperative to your home or business. Those are the costs we manage here at the cooperative. The costs we have little or no control over are the costs of producing electricity. These costs include the price of fuels, transportation and construction, among others. Those costs make up about 70 percent of your electric bill.

### Why are fuel costs rising?

Natural gas and coal are fuels used to produce electricity here in Texas. High

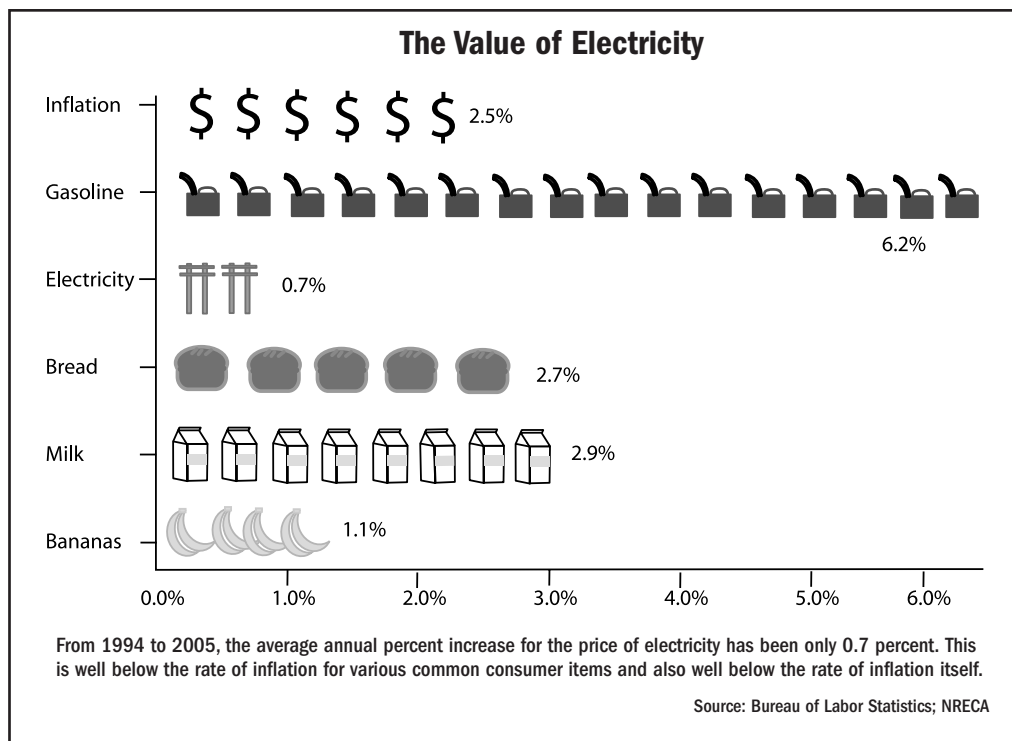
overseas demand, hurricane damage and fluctuating futures markets have escalated the costs of these fuels significantly in the last two years.

Increased demand coupled with recent disruption in supply due to hurricanes in the Gulf States, are the main factors associated with increases in natural gas prices. Such tightening of the supply/demand balance has resulted in dramatic price volatility. Additionally, a significant amount of natural gas is bought on the commodities market where emotions have run high, increasing speculation of shortages, which has driven up short-term pricing.

Last summer's hurricanes dealt an

injuring blow to the U.S. natural gas supply. First, Hurricane Katrina reduced natural gas supplies significantly. Less than a month later, Hurricane Rita further hampered natural gas production and refining.

At Belfalls EC, we work each and every day to keep electricity a great value, even as the costs of other commodities continue to increase. As always, we strive to keep rates as low as possible through sound, accountable and careful management of your cooperative's assets. Your cooperative is here to ensure that our members get the best value for your dollar—reliable, affordable and environmentally sound electric energy.



# INSULATION LOWERS ENERGY BILL

Common sense tells you that closing windows and doors keeps your air-conditioned air from leaking out of the house, but there's a bigger passageway to the outdoors right above you—your attic.

While the attic might not be the first place you think of when you crank up the A/C this summer, a properly insulated attic can save money on your cooling bill and help ensure a consistent temperature throughout the house.

Begin by checking to see how much insulation your house already has. Check the insulation's R-value, which determines how well it holds back heat. Look for attic insulation with an R-value between R-38 and R-44, or visit the Department of Energy's website to find the recommended insulation for your area ([www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html](http://www.ornl.gov/~roofs/Zip/ZipHome.html)).

Consider calling a certified contractor to install insulation properly.

If you're a do-it-yourselfer, follow the directions for proper safety and ventilation.

Consider these tips when installing insulation:

- Properly seal ceiling edges and cracks.

- Install the insulation so it is continuous and even.

- Look for the Energy Star label when purchasing insulation. The Energy Star designation means the product has passed rigorous government standards for energy efficiency.

FORM	METHOD OF INSTALLATION	WHERE APPLICABLE	ADVANTAGES
<b>Blankets: Batts or Rolls</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Fiberglass</li> <li>• Rock wool</li> </ul>	Fitted between studs, joists and beams	All unfinished walls, floors and ceilings	Do-it-yourself Suited for standard stud and joist spacing, which is relatively free from obstructions
<b>Loose-Fill (blown-in or spray-applied)</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Rock wool</li> <li>• Fiberglass</li> <li>• Cellulose</li> <li>• Polyurethane foam</li> </ul>	Blown into place or spray applied by special equipment	Enclosed existing wall cavities or open new wall cavities  Unfinished attic floors and hard-to-reach places	Commonly used insulation for retrofits (adding insulation to existing finished areas)  Good for irregularly shaped areas and around obstacles
<b>Reflective Systems</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Foil-faced paper</li> <li>• Foil-faced polyethylene bubbles</li> <li>• Foil-faced plastic film</li> <li>• Foil-faced cardboard</li> </ul>	Foils, films or papers fitted between wood frame studs, joists and beams	Unfinished ceilings, walls and floors	Do-it-yourself  All suitable for framing at standard spacing. Bubble-form suitable if framing is irregular.  Effectiveness depends on spacing and heat flow direction

## SHUTTING TV OFF MAKES TIME FOR LEARNING

When your children run home from school today and plop down in front of the TV, think twice about letting them. Turning off the TV could help your child find more productive activities—and save you money on your electric bill.

April 24-30 is TV Turnoff Week; consider observing it! Children spend more hours watching TV than they do in school every year, according to the TV Turnoff Network, and a new study indicates watching television could increase your child's chance of becoming a bully.

So turn off the TV and take your kids to the public library to help

them find books that match their TV show interests. Or encourage a neighborhood TV Turnoff Day and organize play groups for all of the children on your street.

Get the most out of your TV-free time. Appliances such as TVs and VCRs still use electricity while they're turned off to display time or respond to remote controls, so unplug your TV and don't even think about taping your favorite show. When you realize how much more free time you have without the TV—the average American watches about four hours a day—you won't even care that you missed it.

## IN EMERGENCIES

To report power failures after business hours, call:

**(254) 583-7955**

If no answer, call:

Kenneth Fikes . . . (254) 583-4556

Larry Koslosky . . . (254) 583-4555

Doug Matous . . . (254) 583-2957

Bobby Skala . . . (254) 583-7219

Jeremy Tepe . . . (254) 583-2557

Jake Willis . . . (254) 583-0191

Ernest Martin . . . (254) 583-2219

Joe W. Marek . . . (254) 583-4016

James Campbell . . . (254) 583-2786