

# McLENNAN COUNTY ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

P.O. Box 357 • McGregor, TX 76657 • [www.mclennanelectric.com](http://www.mclennanelectric.com) • (254) 840-2871

## MCEC SERVICE AWARDS

### Employees of the Year



Neil Johnson



Keith Bearden

Employees of the Year are selected by their fellow employees. Candidates are considered by the following traits:

- Dedication to MCEC and co-op principles
- Positive attitude
- Good work ethic
- Willingness to go above and beyond the call of duty to serve our members, improve the co-op, and assist fellow employees

### Service Awards



Punkin Redding



James Slover



David Cunningham



Charles Simmons



Shirley Sleeper



Mike Brenegar



Robert Snider

**120 YEARS OF SERVICE TO YOU, OUR MCEC MEMBERS**



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# WHY WE ENCOURAGE YOU TO CONSERVE ENERGY

**Y**ou may wonder why we encourage you to use your electricity more effectively through energy conservation. After all, we're in the business of selling kilowatt-hours. Why would we encourage our customers to use less electricity?

Your cooperative isn't in business to make profit; it's in business to serve you in the most efficient, reliable and cost-effective way possible. Each co-op is collectively owned by the people it serves and shares its members' interest in keeping costs down.

If a number of members reduce their usage between 3 p.m. and 8 p.m. (the demand window) during the months of June through September, it reduces our overall cost of power; this savings is passed on to all of our members.

You can reduce demand by simply waiting to run the dishwasher or wash a load of clothes until after the demand window.

We strongly encourage energy conservation for a number of reasons. First, it's good common sense. Although fossil fuels are still relatively abundant, they are a fixed quantity. Depleting these natural resources means there will be less fuel for future generations.

Conserving energy saves you money in two ways: (1) Your lowered usage saves on your monthly electric bill, and (2) when many consumers lower their usage, it saves your electric cooperative

money as well. Electric co-ops must keep enough power (capacity) on hand to supply all members' highest usage (demand). If that demand can be managed effectively, power sources may not have to be tapped as soon as they

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would otherwise, and the construction of costly new generating plants can be postponed. As our electric system continues to grow, we must maintain an adequate supply of power; your conservation efforts, when combined with others', can ensure that the coopera-

tive's growth remains stable.

Here at your cooperative, we are trying to keep your electricity affordable by automating operations where possible and by reasonable budgets that do not sacrifice reliability and service. We have no control, however, over the market price of fuels needed to generate electricity. The cost of fuels such as natural gas and coal are increasing steadily, and many factors affect those prices. Do we need to conserve electricity? Of course. Will that alone solve the energy crunch? Absolutely not. Conservation of electricity is just one avenue for managing energy costs. We must all conserve energy in other ways.

Does this mean we should all get rid of our SUVs? Not necessarily, but we can save fuel by avoiding unnecessary trips, combining errands, and sharing rides to work.

We'll continue to offer tips for conserving electricity, even though we're in the business of selling it. You can count on your co-op to continue looking out for you. Just remember that we all need to conserve energy of all types—from gasoline to natural gas to propane. Many types of fuel make up our nation's energy picture and affect our pocketbooks. You can help us keep costs affordable by looking for ways to conserve all types of energy, not just electricity.

## CAPITAL CREDIT ALLOCATIONS 2004

**M**cLennan County Electric Cooperative has allocated capital credits to members' accounts from the 2003 calendar year. The allocations from 2003 amounted to \$1,207,282. Each account's equity can be calculated by multiplying the member's total bill (including security light expense but excluding any taxes, services, memberships, deposits or miscellaneous charges) by a factor of .02418020. Capital credits are not refundable at this time, nor can they be applied toward current or outstanding bills. If you have any questions concerning these calculations, please call the co-op office.

This article is intended to serve as the official notice of allocations of capital credits for members' equity for 2003.



## STANDARDS RAISED FOR A/C EFFICIENCY

The government significantly raised energy efficiency standards for air conditioners in January. A recent survey indicates that 90 percent of homeowners know nothing about it.

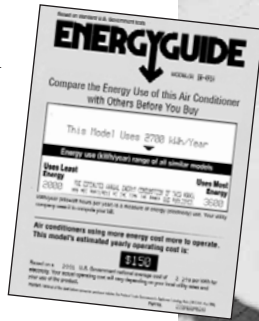
The 2005 Home Air Conditioning Test by Emerson, an air-conditioning manufacturer, suggests only one out of 10 homeowners knows the seasonal energy efficiency ratio (SEER) of the family's air conditioner.

The SEER tells you how energy efficient your air conditioner is. The SEER rating is determined by dividing the air conditioner's total cooling output by the amount of energy it uses. The Department of Energy's new energy-efficiency standards mandate that all air conditioners manufactured after January 23 must meet a minimum rating of 13 SEER, up 30 percent from the previous 10 SEER standard.

Some manufacturers are targeting the compressor—which pumps refrigerant through the system—when making improvements, resulting in quieter, lighter and smaller systems.

For homeowners, this means that purchasing a new air conditioner this spring could reduce energy bills.

For more information on EnergyGuide ratings and criteria, visit [www.energyguide.com](http://www.energyguide.com). The website offers tips for using energy more efficiently.



## SURGE PROTECTION

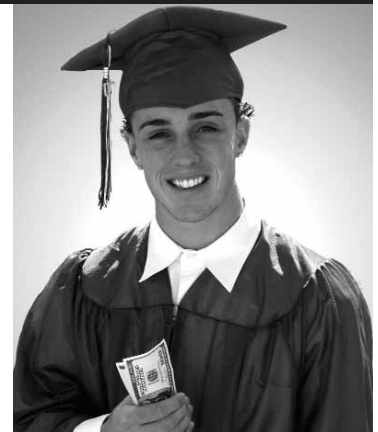
Is your electronic equipment protected against lightning storms?

We have surge protection equipment available for purchase that will offer peace of mind when those storms roll in. Call the MCEC office at (254) 840-2871 and ask for Ron Poston.



## SCHOLARSHIP AWARDS PROGRAM FOR 2006

McLennan County Electric Cooperative is proud to announce its scholarship program for 2006. Any student meeting the qualifications can apply for this scholarship. There will be a total of three scholarships awarded within our service area in the amount of \$1,000 each (\$500 for fall and spring semesters). Winners will be chosen at random at the local MCEC headquarters on April 17, 2006. Please call the co-op at (254) 840-2871 for all the details and scholarship applications.



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# GOVERNMENT-IN-ACTION YOUTH TOUR WASHINGTON



## What is the Youth Tour?

McLennan County Electric Cooperative will join rural electric cooperatives across the nation in the 2006 Government-In-Action Youth Tour, a two-week trip that allows high-achieving youth to see our nation's government and history firsthand. Each summer over 1,000 tour participants gather at our nation's capital to tour famous sites and learn more about government.

## When is the trip?

The 2006 Texas delegation is scheduled to leave Dallas on Thursday, June 8, and return on Friday, June 16. Travel to and from Washington will be by airplane.

## What will it cost?

McLennan County Electric Cooperative will pay for the cost of travel, lodging, food and group entertainment. Participants pay only for souvenirs, gifts, additional snacks, etc.

## Who is eligible?

The essay contest is open to any high school student between the ages of 14 and 19 years old whose parent, grandparent or legal guardian is currently a member of McLennan County Electric Cooperative. Past members and family members of McLennan County Electric Cooperative employees or board of directors are not eligible.

## How do I enter?

Submit an essay (not to exceed 500 words) on "The History of Electric Cooperatives." One winner will be chosen according to originality and content. The winner will be required to give a brief summary of the trip at the October 2006 Annual Meeting. You need to include your name, address, phone number, school name and grade level, along with the co-op member's current account number. A panel of judges from both inside and outside McLennan County Electric Cooperative will select the tour delegate. The deadline for the essay is 5 p.m. on April 1, 2006. Our address is P.O. Box 357, McGregor, TX 76657.

Please call Ron Poston at (254) 840-2871 if you have any questions concerning the 2006 Government-In-Action Youth Tour.

