Cooperatives 101

Learning About
A Unique Way Of Business
What Is A “Cooperative”?
A Cooperative Is:

- Owned By Those Who Use The Goods & Services The Cooperative Produces
A Cooperative Is:

Controlled By A Democratically Elected Board Of Directors, Who Are Members Of The Cooperative.
A Cooperative Is:

- A Non-Profit Business

Though not motivated by profit, if cooperatives do generate surplus revenues, those revenues are distributed to members based on the amount of business they transacted with the cooperative.
A Cooperative Is:

Guided By The “Seven Cooperative Principles”, Which Are:

1. Voluntary & Open Membership
2. Democratic Member Control
3. Members’ Economic Participation
4. Autonomy & Independence
5. Education, Training, & Information
6. Cooperation Among Cooperatives
7. Concern For Community
Does The Cooperative Business Model Work?
You Bet It Does!

Land O’ Lakes, Ocean Spray, ACE Hardware, Tru-Value, and Credit Unions (Security Service), are all examples of successful cooperatives!
Vital To Rural Economies

Cooperatives play a critical role in the nation’s economy.

They generate billions of dollars in income that stays in communities in which co-ops operate, and offer consumers a trusted, accountable alternative to publicly traded companies.
Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc.

“Owned By Those We Serve”

It’s more than just a slogan—It’s what determines every aspect of how the Co-op operates.
A Major Presence

With Offices in Brackettville, Carrizo Springs, Dell City, Fort Stockton, Alpine, and El Paso, Rio Grande Electric Co-op is a major presence in West and Southwest Texas.
Dedicated To Helping The Communities We Serve

An Electrical Safety Demonstration For A School
Because We Care . . .

- Rural Broadband Grant Application
- All-Hazard Emergency Warning Radio Grant Application
- Donations to County Fairs, Jr. Livestock Shows

- Participation in Community Parades, Festivals, and Civic Endeavors
- School Safety Demonstrations
- Book Covers To Schools in 18 Texas Counties/ 2 NM Counties
- Donations to Fire Departments, Emergency Medical Services, County Libraries, and Churches Throughout the Service Territory
Youth Activities
Promoting Awareness of Cooperative Business & Electrical Safety

- Scholarships—High school graduate candidates vie for (22) $1,500 scholarships
- National Electrical Safety Month Poster Contest: Open to students grades 1-6 in any county RGEC serves.
Legislative Issues

Rio Grande ECI works closely with legislators on issues affecting the electric power industry as they relate to rural Texans.

The lines of communication are always open, so please don’t hesitate to call.
Traditional. . .

Yet Innovative

Rio Grande has a long established record of dependability and service.
But we're not the same Co-op your Grandpa knew!

Today, rural electric Cooperatives operate nearly half of the electric distribution lines in the U.S. and provide electricity for 42 million Americans.

Photo Courtesy USDA Archives, Circa 1936
GPS Units insure proper placement of facilities and improve map accuracy.
Modern Metering Technology

- The TWACS System (Two-Way Automatic Communication System), enables enhanced functions to gather information not previously available.
ION Metering allows staff to monitor even the most remote substations and metering points via satellite.
Meeting The Changing Needs Of Rural Texas

- Commercial and Industrial
- Institutional
- Residential
- Irrigation
- Farm & Ranch
- Oil & Gas
- Wind and Photovoltaic (Solar)
The Co-op provides electric power and serves the needs of those in areas deemed unprofitable by private and investor-owned entities.

Rio Grande Electric Cooperative, Inc. continues to provide the services rural Texans need.

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Rio Grande is committed to promoting progress and a strong, sustainable border economy.