



A Message From The COO By Theresa Quiroz

You Control Your Electric Bill

In Texas, we really only see two seasons: summer and winter...and, they usually alternate days within the same week. It seems comical, but spot-on, especially with what we have experienced these last few months. Since November, Co-op Country saw dangerously freezing temperatures, damaging rain, windstorms, and calmly warming temperatures in between. Seriously, such extreme changes in weather patterns have a greater impact on your electric bill than any other contributing factor.

Good news, everyone! You have more control than you realize, and Rio Grande Electric gives you more control than you take. Because a portion of your bill is based on the amount of electricity you use and how often you use it, you can lower your electric bill costs by monitoring the comfort(s) in your own home. To give you some ideas, heating the air and water, or clothes drying in the middle of freezing temperatures or vice versa, cooling the air and water in the middle of blistering hot temperatures will cause a big spike on your electricity bill. You can always use less to save money, but you can also install programmable thermostats, upgrade appliances and light bulbs to energy-efficient appliances, CFLs or LEDs.

However, if your household is like mine and everyone comes home for the holidays, enjoying family and friends can quickly turn into additional expenses and hospitality-induced anxiety, if the comfort of the home is lost. So, what do we do? We crank up and down the air conditioning, depending on the time of day and weather, we launder everything in the home, we cook for an army and we almost never really turn down the lights. It is all worth the effort to be able to enjoy your family and friends, right? Well then, you get your January and February electric bills and surprise! Texas weather and holiday gatherings can drive up costs for you and the Cooperative.

With all of these thoughts in mind, Rio Grande Electric wants to help by literally putting even more control in your hands with its SmartHub® mobile application. Whether you are enjoying company in the comfort of your own home or elsewhere, you can eliminate surprises on your electric bill by conserving where possible, of course, but also by subscribing to receive power usage alerts on your mobile devices by text message or email notification. This is a beautiful thing! So please do not delay. If you need help getting it set up on your mobile devices, stop by, call in, or visit our website for an instructional video. Customer Service Representatives are happy to share with you all that the SmartHub® mobile application has to offer. Of course, we also understand that payment of capital credits at this time of year certainly helps make the holiday season more enjoyable.

Rio Grande Electric serves to provide you reliable electric energy when you need it; and together, we can work to keep your energy costs as low as possible.