

## Resolve To Save Energy in 2018

**SAVING ENERGY—AND MONEY—SHOULD BE ON EVERYONE'S RESOLUTION LIST. HERE** are some quick tips to help you get started in 2018.

- 1. Replace your lightbulbs.** Most people have switched from traditional incandescent bulbs by now, but in case you're still on the fence: An \$8 LED lasts up to 25 times longer and costs only \$30 to operate over that period.
- 2. Beef up the insulation in your attic.** Attics can be sources of heat loss in the winter and heat gain in the summer. Payback varies by region, but it's usually within two years, and your home's comfort will show a difference.
- 3. Install programmable thermostats.** Up to 20 percent of the average home's yearly energy bill goes toward heating and cooling. Programmable thermostats save money by adjusting the temperature during unoccupied hours.
- 4. Maintain your HVAC system.** Heating and cooling system equipment runs best when maintained. Change your filters on a regular basis and have equipment serviced annually to make sure it's running efficiently.
- 5. Unplug.** Check around the house to see if devices are unnecessarily plugged in. Cellphones, chargers, TVs, entertainment systems, computers and appliances still draw power when not in use.
- 6. Weatherize.** Weatherizing your home means sealing against airflow around doors, windows and places where pipes enter the home.
- 7. Conduct your own energy audit.** Do you really need two refrigerators? Is there a fish tank with no fish? Is your house so hot in the winter that you need to wear a Hawaiian shirt? Walk around your house to check for—and eliminate—wasteful energy loads.
- 8. Replace your single-pane windows.** Upgrading to more energy-efficient windows can help control temperature and air infiltration in your home. It can be costly, but payback can take just a few years.
- 9. Upgrade your appliances.** Energy Star-rated appliances mean more energy efficiency and can save you hundreds of dollars over their life span.

WHAT TO DO IF ...

## Your Car Crashes Into a Utility Pole

### ACCIDENTS HAPPEN. WOULD YOU KNOW

what to do if your car crashed into an electric utility pole? Knowing what to do—and what NOT to do—could be the difference between life and death.

Always consider power lines and other electrical equipment to be live and dangerous.

**If a power line falls on your vehicle and there is no fire**, your safest option is to stay inside your vehicle until help arrives. The vehicle acts as a path for the electrical current to reach the ground. You are safe inside the vehicle, but if you get out, you could be electrocuted.

**If a power line falls on your vehicle and there is a fire**, to exit safely:

- ▶ Jump out of the vehicle, making sure NO part of your body or clothing touches the ground and vehicle at the same time.
- ▶ Land with both feet together and take small, shuffling steps for at least 40 feet away from the vehicle.
- ▶ The ground could be energized. Shuffling away with both feet together decreases the risk of electrical shock.

In either situation, call 911 and your electric cooperative for help.



# SAVE THE DATE



## PANOLA-HARRISON ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE ANNUAL MEETING

**SATURDAY, APRIL 14, 10 A.M.**

Marshall Convention Center

Look for details in next month's issue.

CALENDAR: TAPHOUSE\_STUDIOS | © ISTOCK.COM

# Co-op Connections Card

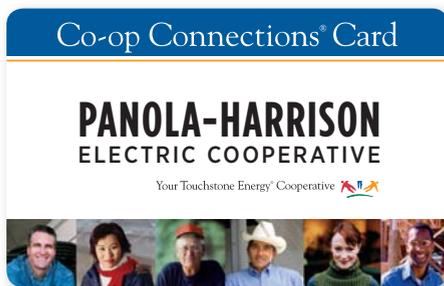
**DID YOU KNOW THAT YOUR PANOLA-Harrison Electric Cooperative membership entitles you to a free Co-op Connections card?**

**The Co-op Connections card:**

- ▶ Is a member benefit of PHEC's membership in Touchstone Energy.
- ▶ Gives PHEC members access to numerous money-saving discounts.
- ▶ Includes hotel and rental car discounts when you travel, among other nationwide and local offers.
- ▶ Is accepted at more than 100,000 health-related providers nationwide.
- ▶ Includes a pharmacy benefit for possible discounts on drugs at many pharmacy retail locations. Check with your pharmacy for possible savings.

**Here's how to check out PHEC's Co-op Connections website for more information on the program and print out your free card:**

1. Visit our website at [phec.us](http://phec.us).
2. Select the Member Services drop-down menu.
3. Click on Co-op Connections card.
4. Follow the links on the page to print your card and view offers.



## Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative

410 E. Houston St. • P.O. Box 1058  
Marshall, TX 75671

**Organized:** 1937

**Service area:** Harrison and Panola counties in Texas and Caddo and DeSoto parishes in Louisiana

**Serves:** 20,141 meters; 13,722 members

**Miles of line:** 2,581 distribution; 72 transmission

### GENERAL MANAGER

Kathy Wood

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Basel Gibbs, President  
 Jerry Holmes, Vice President  
 Albert Tiller, Secretary  
 Paul Fortune  
 Jay Goswick  
 Sandra Stephens  
 Gene Stough

## Contact Us

*For information during office hours and outages 24/7*

### CALL US

**(903) 935-7936** local or  
**1-800-972-1093** toll-free

### FIND US ON THE WEB

[phec.us](http://phec.us)

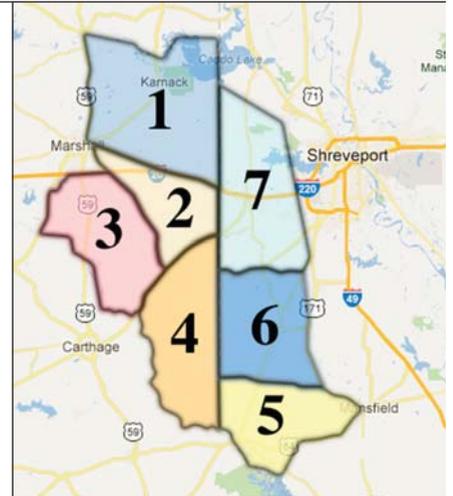
### OFFICE HOURS

**Monday-Friday, 8 a.m.-5 p.m.**  
*24-hour service available for outages and emergencies.*

### BILL PAYMENT INFORMATION

**Bring your electric bill** or bill stubs when visiting the co-op office in Marshall with billing inquiries or payment questions.

**Payments can be made** by mail, at our local office, by phone or on our website. We accept a variety of payment forms, including cash, check, electronic funds transfer, credit card and check-by-phone. Please call 1-866-520-1211 or (903) 935-4657 to pay by credit card or check-by-phone, or use our website at [phec.us](http://phec.us).



## Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative Director District Map

DISTRICT	DIRECTOR
1	Paul Fortune
2	Albert Tiller, <i>Secretary</i>
3	Jay Goswick
4	Basel Gibbs, <i>President</i>
5	Sandra Stephens
6	Jerry Holmes, <i>Vice President</i>
7	Gene Stough

# ETREYS Set for June 25–29

THE 2018 EAST TEXAS RURAL ELECTRIC YOUTH SEMINAR IS SCHEDULED FOR JUNE 25–29 at East Texas Baptist University in Marshall.

ETREYS is a leadership camp designed to foster positive ideals and values among young people and enhance skills in leadership, problem-solving and interpersonal relationships in a wholesome environment.

Students living in Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative’s service area who are high school sophomores or juniors and interested in taking part in the leadership camp should contact Linda McNeely before March 15 at (903) 935-7936.

## NONDISCRIMINATION INFORMATION

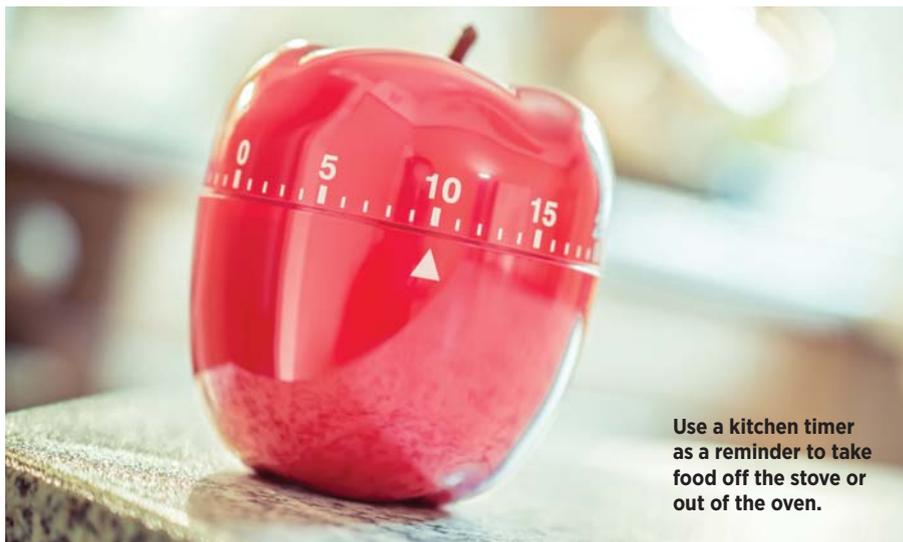
Panola-Harrison Electric Cooperative is an equal-opportunity provider and employer. If you wish to file a Civil Rights program complaint of discrimination, complete the USDA Program Discrimination complaint form online at [ascr.usda.gov/complaint\\_filing\\_cust.html](http://ascr.usda.gov/complaint_filing_cust.html), or at any USDA office, or call 1-866-632-9992 to request the form. You may also write a letter containing all of the information requested in the form. Send your completed complaint form or letter by mail to U.S. Department of Agriculture, Director, Office of Adjudication, 1400 Independence Ave. SW, Washington, DC 20250-9410, by fax to (202) 690-7442 or by email to [program.intake@usda.gov](mailto:program.intake@usda.gov).

Happy  
New Year!

from Panola-Harrison EC

Our offices will be closed Monday, January 1, to allow employees to ring in the new year with their families.





Use a kitchen timer as a reminder to take food off the stove or out of the oven.



AARON007 | ISTOCK.COM

## Did You Know?

Persistent dirt lines on floors likely can be blamed on air leaks. Dirt travels in moisture, which travels in heat, which seeks cold. Where lines exist around the joints between walls and floors, check for drafts, then seal the leaks.

# Cold Weather Safety

**IN COLDER WEATHER, A RISE IN ELECTRICAL APPLIANCE USE INCREASES THE OCCURRENCE** of electrical fires, electrocutions, carbon monoxide poisoning and other winter weather-related injuries. Keep in mind the following tips to stay safe.

## Heating the House

Space heaters are a common way to keep warm, but they require caution and close attention for safe use. Read manufacturer's instructions and warning labels carefully. Inspect the cord for cracked plugs or loose connections. Don't let pets or children play close to the unit, and turn it off when you're leaving the room or going to sleep.

Keep heaters on level, flat surfaces at least 3 feet away from anything flammable, including papers, clothing, bedding and rugs. Place heaters out of high-traffic areas and doorways where they could trip passersby. Plug a heater directly into a wall outlet with no other electrical devices, and always unplug and safely store it after use.

## In the Bedroom

Electric blankets and heating pads often are used for supplemental heat. Look for charred or frayed spots on their surfaces, or cracks or frays in the electric cords. Never fold or tuck in an electric blanket and do not allow anything to rest on top of it—including other blankets or pets—when in use.

## In the Kitchen

Cooking fires and electric shock also are common during winter months. Never cook if you're sleepy or have been drinking alcohol. Use a timer to remind you to check on food on the stove or in the oven. Double-check that oven burners and appliances are off once you are done cooking. Use outlets protected by ground-fault circuit interrupters for countertop appliances, especially near water.

## In Case of Outage

Portable generators are used often after winter storm-related power outages. Be sure to locate your generator outside, away from windows and doors. Install carbon monoxide alarms on every level of your home and outside each sleeping area; test the alarms monthly; and replace batteries at least annually.



DAVID PAPAIZIAN | ISTOCK.COM

## Power Tip

Turn off outdoor lighting during daylight hours when it's not needed. If you can, replace existing outdoor lights with solar-powered options for even greater savings.