

What My Local Electric Cooperative Does for My Community

WCEC is constantly looking for ways to improve its visibility in the community. WCEC encourages its employees to be active in civic organizations and boards while being active in their community. Several employees are active in clubs such as Rotary, Lions, and Pilot Club as well as being on boards of Little League, Red Wave swim team, Boys & Girls Club, and a multitude of other organizations. Encouraging their employees to be an integral part of their community helps lead the future of our country and may encourage the youth to one day be an employee in the electric industry. On most days of the week you will find employees cooking hamburgers, serving plates or delivering food boxes to those in need or just being active helping around the community.

Throughout the years, WCEC has been active in many educational programs throughout the area it serves. I recall as a child in daycare watching the arcing demonstration educating us on the importance of electric safety and conservation. Many years later I was able to see the larger demonstration which really puts the importance of electrical safety into perspective. WCEC has devoted countless hours to educating the public through the Texas Coop Power Magazine, newspaper articles and in-person demonstrations. WCEC is active with the local Fire Departments and Police Departments to ensure their staff is trained in responding to electrical related fires and what to do should a structure burn that has an active electric service. WCEC's goal is for everyone to go home safely to their families.

The cooperative spirit has been evident throughout WCEC's history from the very first lines that were constructed, poles were erected, and power was supplied to its outlying members' homes. Not only are you a member of the Cooperative, you are an owner. You have a voice each year at the Cooperatives annual meeting to help ensure under-served areas can be served and products offered at affordable prices. While WCEC provides reliable electric energy to its members, its rates are priced as competitively as possible to benefit the local economy and the area it serves. WCEC has offered energy efficient water heaters, electric grills, broadband Internet services and others for many years. Not only has the cooperative been instrumental in providing electric service to un-served electric areas, they were the first

in the area to target unserved Internet areas. Maintaining the balance between dependability and economics becomes increasingly difficult as expenses grow as a result of changes in energy supply and demand patterns caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, as well as the ongoing effects of Winter Storm Uri. For decades, WCEC has been dedicated to making the lives of its members better, not cost more.

Reading through the history of WCEC has allowed me to understand how and why the company [REDACTED] was formed. Personally, I feel that Wharton County Electric Cooperative does not need to change or improve anything because how they run their business now is great for the community. I get to see first hand that it's not only in the services they provide, but the education of the public and concern for reliable & affordable electric service.