

# Conserve energy and dollars

Part one of a three-part series

Electricity is a great value.

Believe it or not, despite all the ups and downs of the volatile energy commodities market, most Sam Houston Electric Cooperative members can still run their entire household for less than \$4 a day.

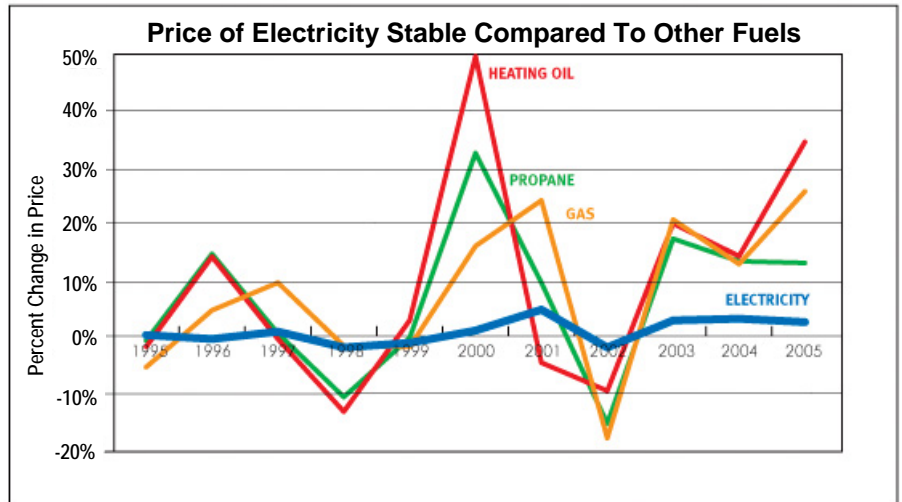
The Cooperative's Board of Directors and management team work hard to maintain a fuel portfolio that minimizes sharp price increases from severely affecting members. The Co-op's workforce is among the most efficient in the nation, utilizing the latest technology and best-in-practice techniques to provide reliable, low cost electricity.

The result of the Cooperative's hard work on your behalf is that Sam Houston EC's rates are among the lowest in this part of Texas.

That said, the local economy has become just one neighborhood of the ever-compacting global community. Events thousands of miles away that just 10 years ago we had the luxury of ignoring now affect our everyday lives in a matter of days, if not hours. Indeed, far-off events such as natural catastrophes, civil strife and rapid economic growth or downturn, which for the most part are out of our control, have raised the cost of living.

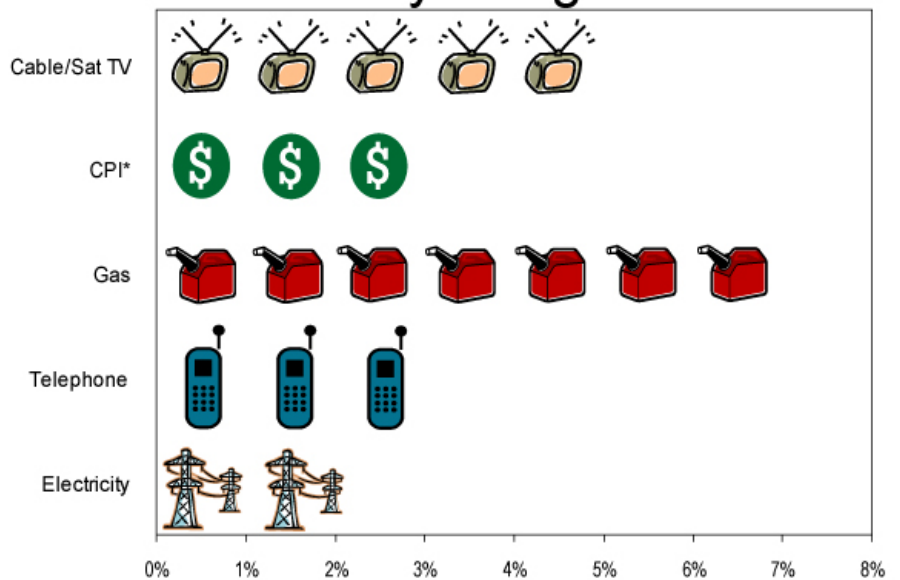
Yet we are not powerless in the face of these events. Through education and better use of our resources, we can maintain our quality of life with minimal sacrifice.

That leaves only one question—how far are you willing to go?



The price of electricity has remained stable while the price of other fuels has been volatile. Source: Energy Information Agency 2005 preliminary data.

## Electricity is a good value



CPI\* = overall Consumer Price Index for U.S. urban areas  
Source: NRECA and Bureau of Labor Statistics, 1995-2005  
Annual Cost increases-10-year annual compound growth rate



## Do Watts Right

Think back to when you were a child.

Those were carefree days when running in and out the house barefooted was a source of joy (for you) and agony (for Mom and Dad).

Although you didn't want to hear it at the time, Mom and Dad were on to something. Keeping the doors closed, turning off the lights and TV when you're not in the room and stop standing in front of the open refrigerator, among other things, are little habits, that if practiced, will save you money on your energy bill.

Sam Houston EC's "Do Watts Right" conservation educational initiative was designed to get you to think about how you use energy in your home as well as provide helpful, cost effective tips on how conserve energy and money.

Caulking around leaky windows and weather-stripping doorways keeps conditioned air in the home and helps your home heating and cooling system from working more than they should. The great part about this project is that you can do it yourself for as little as \$20.

Learning how to properly use your thermostat doesn't cost you anything, but the rewards can be rich. Air conditioning can account for nearly half of your electric bill in the summer. Raising the thermostat

a few degrees when you're at home puts dollars back in your pocket and still provides a comfortable living environment. An investment of \$25 in a programmable thermostat can save even more money allowing you to tailor the ventilation system to your lifestyle. And don't forget to change your return air filter.

These are just a

few of the many cost effective tips that can give you control of your energy bill. If you're not sure where to start, give us a call and schedule a free in-home energy audit. Our Energy Usage

Advisor will walk you through your home and point out things you can do to conserve energy.

Take the opportunity to Do Watts Right. For more energy saving tips, please visit our Web site, [www.samhouston.net](http://www.samhouston.net), or contact a Member Services Representative for more information.

