

*Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma*

# Youth Power

*Resource Manual*



# Powering the needs of a nation's youth!

## Youth Tour "Government in Action" Trip

Since 1963, the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives has been a sponsor of the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association's "Youth Tour," a week-long tour of the nation's capital, Washington, D.C. Only juniors in high school are eligible for the trip, with contests being sponsored annually by local electric co-ops across the state.

More than 2,500 students have participated in the OAEC Youth Tour since its inception. Student winners from 46 states gather in Washington to learn more about government and the electric cooperative program. Delegations follow state planned itineraries which include a day on Capitol Hill observing the House and Senate in session and a luncheon with their Congressional delegation.

The purpose of the tour is to provide a multitude of opportunities to young people by helping them to:

- Better understand the values of rural electrification
- Become more familiar with the historical and political environment of the nation's capital by visiting monuments, government offices and Co-op organizations
- Visit elected officials to better understand how the federal government works
- Learn leadership and cooperation skills while gaining new friends and acquaintances

### Cooperatives participating in **Youth Tour**

Alfalfa Electric	Lake Region Electric
Caddo Electric	Northeast Electric
Central Rural Electric	Northfork Electric
Choctaw Electric	Northwestern Electric
Cimarron Electric	Oklahoma Electric
Cookson Hills Electric	OAEC
Cotton Electric	Ozarks Electric
East Central Electric	Red River Valley REA
Harmon Electric	Rural Electric
Indian Electric	SW Rural Electric
Kay Electric	Tri-County Electric
Kiamichi Electric	Verdigirs Valley Electric
Kiwash Electric	

# "YOUTHPOWER" Energy Camp

Now in its 23<sup>rd</sup> year, the OAEC "Energy Camp" has grown to more than 80 eighth-grade student participants each summer. This leadership development camp is held in the beautiful Red Rock Canyon area at Canyon Camp outside of Hinton, Oklahoma.

Chaperones from Oklahoma's rural electric cooperatives teach students about community development, leadership, electrical safety and the importance of the rural electrification program in their community. A tour of an electricity generation plant is a highlight of this four-day camp. Swimming, hiking, ping-pong and volleyball tournaments keep students busy in their "free" time! And a terrific "DJ Dance" closes the camp each year.

Over 1,000 eighth-graders have participated in the "YOUTHPOWER" Energy Camp since its creation in 1988. Local students are selected through a variety of methods, including essay contests, speech contests, and honors or awards programs in junior high schools.

Along with the cooperative employees, directors and managers also give of their time to travel to the camp and instruct students about their duties and responsibilities. Participants learn about the future and direction of the electric utility industry and the role that their local electric co-op plays in community issues.

### Cooperatives participating in **Energy Camp**

Alfalfa Electric	Lake Region Electric
Caddo Electric	Northeast Electric
Central Rural Electric	Northfork Electric
Choctaw Electric	Northwestern Electric
Cimarron Electric	Oklahoma Electric
Cookson Hills Electric	OAEC
Cotton Electric	Ozarks Electric
East Central Electric	People's Electric
Harmon Electric	Red River Valley REA
Indian Electric	Rural Electric
Kay Electric	SW Rural Electric
Kiamichi Electric	Tri-County Electric
Kiwash Electric	Verdigirs Valley Electric

# A Short History of Rural Electrification

Electric power had a profound effect on life in America's cities for nearly a half century before the advent of the Rural Electrification Administration (REA). Metropolitan areas began to light up shortly after Thomas Edison built the first central station electric system in lower Manhattan in 1882. Electrifying rural areas may have been technically possible, but most people in the electricity industry felt it was not economically feasible.

Businessmen involved in bringing light and power to the cities could not foresee any profits being made in serving sparsely populated areas of the countryside. Private, investor-owned power companies gradually extended service, but did so only on main roads leading out of the cities. Even then, farmers who happened to live adjacent to main highways were required to pay the full costs of connecting their homes — prices ranging from \$2,000-\$3,000 per mile of line.

As early as 1923, efforts were made to find out how electricity could be used to make rural areas more productive. Many agencies studied the problem, but most gave up on the idea, claiming that "there are very few farm operations that are not now served." This statement would come back to haunt the commercial electric industry when REA and rural electric cooperatives proved that power *could* come to rural America!

The first official action of the federal government pointing the way to the present rural electrification program came with the passage of the Tennessee Valley Authority Act in May 1933.

This act authorized the TVA board to construct transmission lines to serve "farms and small villages that are not otherwise supplied with electricity at reasonable rates," and to give the preference in the sale of surplus power to "cooperative organizations of citizens or farmers."

On June 1, 1934, the first rural electric cooperative in the TVA area was established. Alcorn County Electric Power Association would later become one of the earlier borrowers of REA funds, using the loan money to build line to rural farm families in Mississippi.

President Franklin D. Roosevelt was a catalyst in the rural electric movement. Shocked to learn that he was paying nearly 18 cents per kilowatt hour for electricity at his Warm Springs, Georgia, summer cottage, Roosevelt authorized a study of the electric power industry and the plight of rural areas. On April 8, 1935, Roosevelt signed the Emergency Relief Appropriation Act, a measure including rural electrification as one of eight categories of projects eligible for funds.

On May 11, 1935, the President signed Executive Order No. 7037 to create the Rural Electrification Administration, and appointed Morris L. Cook as REA's first administrator. REA's first loans were approved on July 22, 1935, and went to borrowers in Georgia, Indiana and Tennessee.

In 1936, Senator George W. Norris of Nebraska and Representative Sam Rayburn of Texas introduced bills to continue REA for 10 years as a lending agency. In July 1939, REA was placed under the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

# What are electric cooperatives?

Electric cooperatives are private, non-profit corporations owned by their consumer-members. They are similar in concept to other consumer-owned businesses, including farm produce marketing co-ops and news gathering and reporting co-ops, like the Associated Press. All cooperatives were formed out of what is known as the “Rochdale Principles,” so-named because of a system designed by a group of weavers in Rochdale, England, to market their products. (See box below.)

Essentially, each consumer of the cooperative is a member, with one vote in the affairs of the cooperative. Bylaws, adopted by the members, set forth their rights and responsibilities and lay out the guidelines

that assure a democratic organization.

Members elect directors to serve on a Board of Trustees, and an annual meeting is held to conduct the business of the cooperative. Local boards employ a professional manager for the co-op and the manager then has the duty of hiring trained personnel to perform the work necessary for the co-op to function.

Rates are established by the local cooperative Board, based upon what it actually costs to provide dependable electric service, and to meet payment schedules on loans. Rates are designed so that revenues exceed expenses. This “margin” is allocated back to members of the cooperative in the form of capital credits. Members receive money back based on the amount of electricity they have used during the allocation period. This return of capital maintains the non-profit status of the cooperative.

## The Rochdale Principles: Keys to Success for Co-ops

The “Rochdale Principles” that most member-owned cooperatives follow were originated by a band of weavers in Rochdale, England, in 1844. Stated simply, they are:

- ❖ **Open Membership:** Those who may reasonably use the co-op’s services – within the practical limits imposed by existing facilities, geography, etc., - must be permitted to join. None may be barred for such reasons as race, religion, sex, nationality or economic situation.
- ❖ **Democratic Control:** Effective means to control the organization must rest in the hands of the members on the basis of one member, one vote. In order to provide capital, members are urged to invest. No amount of investment, however, can earn more than one vote for any member.
- ❖ **Limited Return on Investment:** Dividends paid on invested dollars should provide a fair “rental” for the members’ money, but a nominal ceiling on interest prevents speculation in co-op stock. Fundamentally, the cooperative exists to provide services to its members, not to return dollars of profit to investors.
- ❖ **Return of Margins to Members:** Dollars left over after all expenses would be regarded as profit for other organizations. In this case, however, they do not belong to the cooperative, but to the members, and must be so allocated on the co-op books. Such dollars are returned to members, on a basis decided by the member-elected board, in proportion to each member’s use of the service.

Any organization failing to measure up to any one of these four “principle” tests cannot be considered a cooperative. Beyond these, the International Cooperative Alliance believes two more practices to be so essential to cooperative success that it has proclaimed them to be principles also. They are:

1. Continuing Education
2. Cooperation Among Cooperatives

# How are cooperatives different from other forms of business?

For each individual need there is an interlocking service of many conducting the business. The end result, quality and price of goods and services in communities, is the measure of success. Each end product or service is in competition with other similar products and services. The business that best satisfies customers or members' needs is the one that will prosper.

## Individual Ownership

1. The individual owner serves the public. The owner buys and sells goods or provides services to whoever wants them.
2. Little legal help is needed to start this kind of business. The owner may only need to buy a license or apply for a permit, for example, to operate a barbershop or beauty parlor.
3. The owner provides or borrows capital to start a business and is responsible for debts. The owner has the liability for debts the store owes. If the store loses money, the owner still must pay the bills.
4. Management is the responsibility of the owner, though someone can be hired to operate the business.
5. The individual owner can make all decisions and determine business policies.
6. The owner gets the net margins, the money left after all the bills are paid.
7. When the owner retires or dies, heirs may keep the business, or sell it, or close it.

## Partnerships

1. Partnerships serve the public by buying and selling goods or providing services to anyone wishing to do business with them.
2. Preparing and signing an agreement or a contract is required to form a partnership. Partners usually need permits or licenses to conduct business. A partnership operating a restaurant needs a permit and must be approved by the local department of health.
3. Partners may provide their own money or borrow capital. Each partner is usually liable up to the value of all his or her property. State laws vary on this.
4. Partners may share management. They may agree for one partner to serve as manager, or they may employ a manager. Each partner is responsible for things done or promised by any other partner in operating the business.
5. Policy decisions are made by the partners, usually by majority vote. The partnership agreement may list senior partners whose votes may be more important in deciding how the business is run.
6. Net margins are used as the partners wish. They may be used to expand the business or be divided among the partners.

When a partner leaves, the partnership comes to an end. A new agreement or partnership may be set up by the remaining partners and any new partners. Partnerships are frequently used for local stores, farms, law firms, health clinics, and other businesses.

## Investor-Owned Corporations

1. Like the individually-owned business and partnership, the investor-owned corporation serves the general public.

2. Capital for investor-owned corporations is usually provided by selling stock or by borrowing. Corporations may borrow from lending institutions. They can also issue bonds and pay back the people who buy the bonds. The corporation is responsible for debts. If the business fails, each owner of stock can lose only the amount paid for the stock. The corporation can lose its property or assets.

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*In an investor-owned corporation, each stockholder has as many votes in elections as the number of shares he or she owns. Those who own the most shares control the corporation.*

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3. Business decisions and matters of policy are decided by the board of directors and officers, who are elected by stockholders. If stockholders wish to change policies, they can elect other directors at the next annual meeting. Each stockholder has as many votes in these elections as the number of shares he or she owns. Those who own the largest number of shares of stock, control the corporation.
4. Management is by the officers who are selected by the board of directors in accordance with the charter.
5. Net margins are either divided among the stockholders on the basis of the amount of stock owned or used to expand the business. The board of directors decides how net margins will be used.
6. When a stockholder dies, his or her stock goes to heirs, who may keep or sell it. Business operations are usually not affected.

## Member/User-Owned Cooperative Corporations

1. The cooperative corporation operates as an agent. It either buys and sells goods for its members or provides some service for them. Consumer co-ops buy for and distribute goods to individual members. Credit unions & organizations, like group health associations, provide services for members.
2. Capital for cooperative corporations may be provided by the sale of stock that has, by law, a limited return, interest rate, or dividend. In non-stock co-ops, capital may be obtained from membership fees. Additional capital may be borrowed from members as well as other lenders. The co-op is responsible for debts to the limit of its assets. Members are responsible only for the money they've invested.
3. Co-ops are managed by officers who are hired by the board of directors. Boards of directors are elected by the co-op members from their membership. Directors act on behalf of members, making policies and employing a manager to transact business. **Unlike investor-owned corporations, each person or member of a co-op usually has one vote, no matter how many accounts or how much electricity is purchased.**
4. Policies are decided at the annual meeting of members. Directors are elected at this meeting to make policy decisions between the annual meetings.
5. Co-ops usually charge enough for goods and services to cover costs. Net margins left over at close of the business year are returned to members according to the amount of business each did with the co-op. Returns are called patronage refunds.
6. A co-op members' ownership becomes an asset of the member's estate at death. Cooperative operation is not affected. (See comparison chart)

# Business Types Compared

FEATURES	INDIVIDUAL	PARTNERSHIP
<b>Who owns the business?</b>	The individual	The partners
<b>Who uses the services?</b>	Generally non-owner customer	Generally non-owner customer
<b>Who votes?</b>	None necessary	The partners
<b>How is voting done?</b>	None necessary	By the amount of business owned
<b>Who determines policies</b>	The individual	The partners
<b>Are returns on ownership capital limited?</b>	No	No
<b>Who gets the net margins?</b>	The individual	The partners in proportion to the amount of business owned

## CORPORATION

### INVESTOR-OWNED

### MEMBER/USER/OWNER COOPERATIVE

The stockholders

The member/user/owners

Generally non-owner customers

Chiefly, member/user/owners

Common stockholders

The member/user/owners

By shares of common stock

One member/user/owner,  
one-vote, or the amount of  
member/user/owner's business

Common stockholders  
and directors

The member/user/owners

No

Yes-usually 8% or less

The stockholders in proportion  
to the number of shares of  
stock owned

The member/user/owners based  
on the amount of business  
done with the cooperative

# What is RUS? (formerly REA)

The Rural Utility Service (RUS; formerly REA) is an agency in the Department of Agriculture that makes loans to finance electric and telephone facilities in rural areas. Original statutory authority was provided by the Rural Electrification Act of 1936 which established the Rural Electrification Administration as a lending agency responsible for developing a program for rural electrification. REA became RUS in the 1994 reorganization of the Department of Agriculture.

RUS changed its lending program in 1996 to offer 4 types of financing for REC facilities. With a Municipal Rate Loan, RUS provides 70% of the financing while 30% is obtained from the private market. These loans carry the average interest rate for municipal bonds. A Hardship Loan is offered to co-ops whose retail rates are 20% higher than the state average and which serve in low-income areas. Loans are for 100%, and interest is capped at 5%. Treasury rate loans are made at the cost of money to the government and loan guarantees are made at the cost of money to the government plus 1/8 of a percent. **No federal tax money is involved in RUS loans.**

The Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Economic Development and Community Development supervises all activities of the RUS, as well as the Rural Housing and Community Development Service and the Rural Business and Cooperative Development Service.

The RUS is headed by an Administrator who reports to the Under Secretary. RUS is assigned responsibility for electric and telephone loan programs formerly performed by the Rural Electrification Administration, plus water and waste facility loans and grants presently assigned to the Rural Development Administration (RDA).

Systems built by RUS borrowers are designed to serve entire rural areas. This "area coverage" policy allows RUS to consider the feasibility of an entire system rather than that of an individual line or section. About 60 percent of the loans and loan guarantees received by RUS electric borrowers have been for electric generation facilities; 30 percent for distribution, 10 percent for transmission facilities and less than 0.1 percent for financing of farmstead installation of wiring, plumbing, electrical equipment and irrigation facilities.

In 1935 (when REA was created), only 10.9 percent of all farms in the U.S. had central station electricity. Today, nearly 99.5 percent of the 2.09 million U.S. farms are electrified, and RUS-financed systems serve half of these.

RUS has made the majority of its loans to cooperatives but the agency has also provided financing to public power districts, tribal utility authorities and municipal electric systems.

From its inception in May 1936 through the end of September 2006, RUS has approved over \$75 billion in loans and loan guarantees. During that time, the agency has provided financing to about 1300 borrowers, of which 900 remain active RUS borrowers today. These borrowers are: located in 47 states and 2 territories; cover about 75% of the land mass in the U.S.; provide electric service to 12% of the total U.S. population (16 million accounts, 36 million people); and, own 40% of the total miles of electric distribution and transmission lines in the nation. The RUS borrowers serve in the most rural, least profitable areas of the country. For example, while municipal systems earn \$72,000 per mile of line and IOU's earn \$60,000 per mile of line, the RUS borrowers earn less than \$9,000 per mile. All of this is accomplished with an agency of less than 200 people with less than 0.02% of the outstanding loans in default.

# What is CFC?

The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) is a nonprofit, cooperative financing institution that provides its member-systems with an independent source of loan funds as a supplement to loans made by RUS. Incorporated in 1969, CFC is owned by its member rural electric systems. CFC has 1,520 members — 900 being electric cooperatives systems.

CFC has a 22-member board of directors representing 11 districts from across the country. District 11, the District of Columbia, is represented by two directors certified to the CFC board by NRECA. The board meets bimonthly, with many of its functions being conducted through four standing committees — Loan, Finance Advisory, Membership Relations, and Operating Review and Audit. The board employs the governor and chief executive officer, who is responsible for carrying out the policies of the board and for managing the day-to-day operations of the business. In September 1994, Sheldon Petersen became the third Governor of CFC following the retirement of Charles B. Gill.

CFC has 218 full-time employees, including 15 regional vice presidents located in various geographic areas of the United States. CFC headquarters are in Herndon, Virginia.

CFC's ability to raise capital is based on seed capital provided by its members through investments in subordinated, unsecured Capital Term Certificates and through members' equity. In combination, these two elements comprise CFC's equity base. For every dollar of such equity, CFC may obtain ten dollars of debt capital.

Total credit commitments to members exceeded \$20.5 billion at the end of Fiscal Year 2010 (May 31). Member investments totaled \$4.5 billion in 2010, or 22% of total capitalization.

A principal source of CFC debt capital is the sale of collateral trust bonds in the market, CFC has offered three bond issues directly to member-systems and their patrons, employees and directors. These bonds provide individuals within the rural electric family an opportunity to invest in CFC — their own financing organization.



In 1974, CFC began selling its commercial paper (short-term promissory notes) in the private money market and to bank trust departments. CFC has also offered its commercial paper directly to member-systems to provide them with a means of investing their temporary surplus funds at money market rates. Nearly 900 members have participated in this program and currently provide more than two-thirds of CFC's short-term debt requirements.

CFC had approximately \$5.18 billion as of May 31, 2010 in bank credit (lines of credit and revolving credit agreements) with 70 domestic and international commercial banks throughout the United States, Europe, Canada and Japan.

CFC keeps members informed with a weekly "CFC News Brief," which contains the latest news on interest rates, etc.

# What is NRECA?

The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) was founded on March 19, 1942 by 10 men concerned with the problems confronting rural electric cooperatives. They envisioned that NRECA would unite rural electric systems under one banner to protect their interests and provide support to help them serve rural America. NRECA is one of the largest rural-oriented cooperative organizations in the United States. It is the national service organization of more than 900 rural electric systems, which provide power to more than 42 million people in 47 states.

More than 900 of NRECA's member systems are cooperatives. Most are distribution systems (most distribution systems are referred to are RECs, Rural Electric Cooperatives, or EMCs, Electric Membership Corporations), but 65 are G&Ts — generation and transmission cooperatives. Other NRECA members are rural public power districts, statewide rural electric organizations and cooperative groups working in the field of rural electrification.




Touchstone Energy®

NRECA policy positions are determined through a resolutions process that begins in each member-system and works its way through state meetings to regional meetings. The 47 states in which rural electric systems are located are divided into 10 regions.

Resolutions developed during the annual fall regional meeting are presented at the annual meeting, where policy positions are determined on a variety of issues.



National Rural Electric  
Cooperative Association

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Each member system is entitled to elect one delegate to represent it at the NRECA annual meeting, and resolutions are adopted through open floor discussion and democratic voting procedures. Each year, usually in March, NRECA holds its annual meeting — one of the nation's largest gatherings of rural people, often attracting more than 13,000 member system managers, directors and employees. At the annual meeting the final steps in policy development are taken. Members of the 13 standing committees meet to review recommendations and develop resolutions based on those passed at the 10 regional meetings as well as in response to other membership suggestions. The annual meeting also serves as a prime educational vehicle for cooperative personnel and members.

*Rural Electrification* magazine is NRECA's principal publication and has circulated monthly since the association's early days. Each July, *Rural Electrification* publishes a directory of rural electric systems. This publication reaches about 50,000 leaders, including managers, board members and key employees of rural electric systems. It also reaches members of Congress.

# What is OAEC?

The Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives (OAEC) is a statewide association created and supported by local electric cooperatives. The OAEC today is comprised of 30 member systems, 28 in Oklahoma and two Arkansas systems that have a portion of their membership residing in our state. The statewide was formed in September 1942, to collectively perform services which would not be economical or practical for each individual cooperative to perform alone.


The purpose of statewide organizations is to:

- Obtain the fairest possible treatment from state government by acquainting legislators and other officials with the rural electric co-op program.
- Enlist the active support of communities through explaining the value of the cooperative to the community and its economy.
- Improve service quality of rural electric member systems by offering a clearinghouse where leaders can exchange ideas and experiences on common problems and opportunities.
- Preserve and strengthen individual cooperatives by bringing them supplementary services such as safety and loss control training, procedural formats for annual meetings, legislative research data, technical assistance, community and economic development planning, and public and member relations assistance.

The OAEC coordinates training for directors, managers, supervisory personnel and employees of electric co-ops. In July 1992, the Statewide began its own Safety and Loss Control program, enlisting the support of member systems to bring about a professional training atmosphere for rural electric cooperative employees.

The OAEC serves as a liaison with state and national legislative and executive branches of government. The Statewide association coordinates a public relations and advertising program and is home to Oklahoma's third-largest publication, *Oklahoma Living* magazine, which goes into more than 316,000 homes and businesses each month.

## Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

The electric cooperatives of Oklahoma voluntarily support their statewide. The OAEC Board of Trustees is composed of two people (generally a manager and a local distribution system trustee) from each member system. The board hires a professional manager to oversee the operations of the statewide, and to employ professionally trained employees to carry out approved work plans.

OAEC personnel work closely with NRECA on national legislation, employee and director training, insurance and other benefit programs, and policy development. The OAEC is also home to the Oklahoma RE&T Credit Union, an employee-owned lending and savings institution. Assets exceeded \$26 million as of June 30, 2011.

# What is Touchstone Energy®?


Touchstone Energy® is a nation-wide alliance of locally owned and operated electric cooperatives, which can collectively provide enhanced services and resources to their residential and business customers.

This is an historic time for the electric utility industry. Changes are happening quickly — changes that will affect millions of electricity customers all across America.

As deregulation unfolds and utility markets restructure, it seems like all the big investor-owned utilities are doing their very best to convince local customers that they're the company on the corner, offering personal responsive service to the community.

But for almost two generations, America's electric cooperative — owned by and committed to the customers they serve — have been bringing reliable, high-quality service and safe, affordable energy to regions that investor-owned power companies wouldn't serve. In small towns and rural and suburban America, millions of families and businesses are benefiting from the innovation and integrity that electric cooperatives offer.

## Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 

Now, many of America's cooperative utilities have banded together to tell customers about the value of being part of an electric co-op. On April 4<sup>th</sup>, 1998, an alliance of over 400 cooperatives launched a national advertising and branding campaign to “bring to light” and enhance the unique value that cooperatives offer. The ads identify electric co-ops as Touchstone Energy® Partners, distinguishing them from large, impersonal power companies.

Touchstone Energy® Partners are electric cooperatives from across the country who have a common commitment to providing superior and responsive service to their residential and business customers. They are pledged to operate with integrity, customer accountability, innovation and a spirit of community awareness.

Touchstone Energy® Partners are easily identified by their use of the Touchstone Energy logo along with their own company name and logo. So when you see an electric co-op's name, look for the Touchstone Energy® logo as a sign of superior quality and service. A “touchstone” is a measure of quality and value. The name was selected since it most effectively describes the unique characteristics of electric cooperatives: strength and responsiveness through local presence, a human relationship orientation, innovation and high quality service, and a true focus on customers.

In Oklahoma, all electric distribution cooperatives, one generation and transmission cooperative and the Statewide Association of Electric Cooperatives have all become Touchstone Energy® Partners. They are proud to be a part of the largest nationwide network of electric utilities, which today includes more than 700 electric cooperatives.

# Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma...

## Powering the needs of a new generation!

The first electric cooperative in Oklahoma was Cimarron Electric Cooperative, formed in 1936 - a time when slightly less than 3 percent of the farms in the state had electric service. In 1939, the Oklahoma Legislature passed the "Rural Electric Cooperative Enabling Act," which guaranteed adequate supplies of electricity for rural areas.

In addition to the 28 distribution cooperatives that deliver power to the rural and suburban areas of the state, two (2) generation and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) supply wholesale power to their member-systems.

The electric cooperatives of Oklahoma maintain more than 97,680 miles of line – enough to circle the earth four times. The co-ops serve over 418,000 meters in 77 counties. The privately-owned power companies in the state operate about 47,000 miles of line and serve more than 1,100,000 meters. Co-ops employ about 2,200 people.

Thousands of homes depend on RECs for light, water, heating and cooling, and dozens of labor-saving or convenience devices. Industrial complexes, commercial institutions and military installations operate today in what once were rural areas. Their existence in these areas is made possible by a dependable power supply from the electric cooperatives of Oklahoma. Where municipal and investor-owned power companies once refused to serve, cooperatives now deliver affordable, dependable and high-quality electric power.

Truly, the Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma are powering the needs of a new generation in our state!

Electric cooperatives, like other businesses, pay taxes. Since income tax is a levy on profit, and electric co-ops are nonprofit corporations, they pay no income tax. However, cooperatives DO pay a 2 percent gross receipts tax (in lieu of property tax) to the state; this money is collected by the state, with 95 percent being returned to local school districts in relation to the number of miles of line the co-op has in that particular district. Co-ops also pay social security, unemployment, gasoline taxes, and license and franchise fees, plus a variety of miscellaneous taxes to local economies.

Electric cooperatives in Oklahoma serve an average of only 4.21 consumers per mile of line, compared to 27.69 per mile for investor-owned utilities (IOUs) and 34.12 per mile for publicly-owned and municipal electric systems (POUs). This means that electric cooperatives collect less than one-ninth the revenue of IOUs, and one-tenth that of POU's per mile of line! Still, when a co-op has net earnings (or margins), each member is allocated a percentage based on a percentage of the amount of electricity he or she has used that year. These "capital credits" are typically paid to members when the financial condition of the co-op so allows.

Electric Cooperatives of Oklahoma are planning ahead, researching all possible power supply options. Natural gas, oil, coal, solar, and wind energy are being explored as alternative power sources to meet the needs of a growing membership, both now and in the future. We ARE powering the needs of a new generation!

# Definitions and Explanations

**Demand Side Management** – Efforts by the co-op, or other utility, to control electrical load “on the consumer’s side of the meter.” This is achieved through programs that encourage the member-consumer to use power during off-peak hours and install efficient appliances. To the extent that these efforts are successful, the co-op’s power supplier avoids having to build new power plants which results in a more favorable wholesale rate to the distribution co-op.

**SCADA** – “Supervisory Control & Data Acquisition” is that part of Distribution Automation that provides remote data acquisition and processing, remote control of power system devices, and various operating console functions that carry out these tasks.

**REA** – Rural Electrification Administration, a lending agency with the U.S. Department of Agriculture. The term REA is often used erroneously as a synonym for locally-owned cooperatives whose growth may be financed with loans from the agency.

**Rural Electric System** – One of approximately 1,000 small utilities, most of which were formed as nonprofit cooperatives following the establishment of REA in 1935 for the purpose of providing central station electricity to unserved persons in rural areas. Used synonymously with “rural electric co-ops.” Chief characteristic is that the user of the service is also an owner, or member. They are known by different names in different states. Some of the more common names includes suffixes Rural Electric Cooperative (REC), Electric Membership Corporation (EMC), Rural Electric Membership Corporation (REMC), and Electric Power Association (EPA).

**REA Borrower** – For statistical reporting purposes, REA classifies systems as “borrowers.” About 93.2 percent of all active and inactive borrowers are cooperatives; the remainder are municipalities, public power districts, and investor-owned utilities.

**Member-Consumer** – A member-consumer of a rural electric system may be a farm, ranch, private home, local business, school, church, hospital, or other meter on co-op lines. It is places served, not persons.

**Distribution Cooperative** – Most rural electric systems are distribution co-ops; that is, organizations that purchase their power at wholesale and deliver it at cost to members.

**Generation & Transmission Cooperative (G&T)** – A generation & transmission co-op is owned by several distribution cooperatives to furnish their own generating plants and transmission lines to supply power to their member co-ops. In some states “paper” G&Ts serve as bargaining agents for member distribution co-ops seeking a power supply.

**Statewides** – in 38 of the 46 states where rural electric distribution and G&T systems are located there are also statewide rural electric organizations, voluntarily supported by the operating electric co-ops. These organizations provide coordinated, commonly desired services to member systems and give a unified voice to rural electrification in their states.

**Public Power Systems** – A utility owned and controlled by taxpayers of a city, district, or other public area and operated as a function of the government.

**Investor-Owned Power Company** – A utility organized to provide a return on capital to the investment community. Unlike a co-op, which is owned by the users of the service, power company ownership bears no relationship to use. Voting control of most power company stock is exercised by a few large financial institutions or insurance companies.

**NRECA** – The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association was founded on March 19, 1942 by 10 men concerned with problems confronting rural electric co-ops. They envisioned NRECA would unite rural electric systems under one banner to protect their interest and provide support to help them serve rural America. NRECA is one of the largest rural-oriented cooperative organizations in the United States. It is the national service organization of nearly 1,000 rural electric systems.

**CFC** – National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation is a non-profit, co-op financing institution that provides its member-systems with an independent source of loan funds as a supplement to loans made by RUS. Incorporated in 1969, CFC is owned by its 1,054 member rural electric systems, 902 of which are distribution systems.

**NRTC** – The National Rural Telecommunication Cooperative (NRTC) has more than 1,000 electric and telephone co-op members in 46 states. NRTC is the leading distributor of satellite TV to rural America, serving more than 1.8million consumers..

**Distribution Automation** – Refers to automation of repetitive tasks on the electric co-op’s distribution system, such as meter reading and loan control.

# Commonly asked questions about electric cooperatives

## What is the rural electrification program?

It refers to a partnership effort of the federal government and electric systems serving the rural areas of America. The federal government provided loans on favorable terms through the Rural Utilities Service (RUS). Farmers and other rural residents provided the initiative and leadership in organizing, constructing and operating their own rural electric systems to provide service for themselves, neighbors & future consumers in rural areas.

## What is RUS?

RUS is the designation for the Rural Utilities Service. This is a government agency, a part of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, with offices in Washington, D.C. It administers the Rural Electrification and Telephone Revolving Fund, insures loans from the fund and guarantees loans from other private sources. Loans are made to cooperatives, public power districts, municipal electric systems, and power companies which are willing to use the funds to provide initial and continuing electric services on an area-wide basis to unserved farms, residences, businesses & industrial plants, schools, churches and other establishments in rural areas.

## How were REA and RUS created?

President Franklin D. Roosevelt created the Rural Electrification Administration by executive order on May 11, 1935. The agency was given continuing status and its authority and responsibilities were clarified in the Rural Electrification Act, passed by Congress the following year. On October 13, 1994, President Clinton signed HR 4217, the Federal Crop Insurance Reform and Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994. This Act abolished the old REA program and created a restructured, modernized and efficient loan program for rural utilities, including electric, telephone & water services.

## Why was REA and the RE loan program necessary?

Only 10% of the farms in this country had electric service by 1935 when REA was created. Most rural areas had been by-passed by electric companies which were unable or unwilling to build lines into territory that was economically poor or thinly populated. Where farmers did get electricity, they generally were required to pay more per kWh.

## Why is it difficult to set rates for electric service in rural areas?

Building an electric system is a very expensive undertaking; it ties up large amounts of capital. The typical electric co-op serves only 6.59 consumers with approximately \$8,558 gross revenue per mile of line. Privately owned utilities (or IOUs) average more than 5 times as many consumers and 7 times as much revenue per mile of line. Municipally owned utilities (munis) average 7 times as many consumers & 9 times as much revenue per mile of line.

## Have the members of rural electric cooperatives helped cut the costs of providing electric service?

Yes, the members of many co-ops have helped to lower costs by donating right-of-ways for lines. In the early years, they helped in the membership sign-up drives & in the clearing of rights-of-way. The directors draw no salaries. In some areas, consumers read their meters to save operating costs.

## How is a co-op non-profit? How does this work?

Any margins left over after expenses – including taxes – are paid, belong to the patrons and not to the cooperative enterprise. In practice, this can get pretty complicated. The electric co-op must use money left over at the end of the fiscal year to repay RUS loans, set up reserves and provide operating cash to carry on current operations. In most kinds of co-ops where members furnish the initial capital, net margins can be paid back to patrons in cash. In electric co-ops, the margins are credited to members in special capital credit accounts for repayment at a future date. What this amounts to is a transfer of the co-op's indebtedness from RUS and other lenders to members. The accumulations of capital credits represent the members' equity in the business. As the financial position of the co-op permits, part of these capital credits are paid back to members.

## Do cooperatives pay taxes?

Yes. In most states, electric co-ops pay taxes on the same basis as other businesses. In a few states, taxes are levied on a basis which recognizes that most of their plant produces comparatively low revenue because lines extend into thinly populated areas. RUS electric borrowers pay a total of over \$450 million per year in state and local taxes. Since co-ops are non-profit, and income tax is a tax on profit, co-ops pay no income tax. However, they do pay a 2% gross receipts tax to the state. This is distributed to local schools relative to the number of lines in each district. This amounted to nearly \$20 million in 2002.

# Commonly asked questions...(continued from page 15)

## How does a co-op differ from other businesses?

In a co-op, membership and joint ownership are open to all who want to use its services. Generally, there is a small membership fee paid initially to the co-op by a member. To insure democratic control, each member has one vote, regardless of his investment or use of electricity. A co-op's non-profit status is generally spelled out in the bylaws and sometimes by the state law under which it is incorporated.

## How much RUS money is borrowed from the federal government each year?

During FY 2003, the Federal Financing Bank (FFB) had Loan Authority in excess of \$4,000,000,000 guaranteed by RUS. Cumulative advances on RUS loans as of December 31, 2002, were \$32 billion. Borrowers were approved for more than \$2.8 billion in REA loan advances in 2002-2003 alone. Of the active borrowers with loans at the end of FY 2003, distribution co-ops total 74 percent and another 5.1 percent operated generation and transmission facilities. The balance of loans went to public power districts, municipal electric systems, and some went to small commercial power companies.

## If the number of farms is declining, how can there be an increase in the number of rural customers?

A lot goes on in rural areas besides farming! Rural consumers include farms, non-farm rural residences, processing plants, motels, churches, commercial businesses, and a wide variety of others, such as home based businesses, that help build local economies. The oil and gas industry has also made a tremendous impact in rural areas of states like Oklahoma. While it is true that the number of farms in the United States has declined severely in the last 3 decades, people who left farms and rural areas are now returning due to a better quality of life – away from the high crime, high stress worries of city life. This trend began to reverse itself in the 1980s, and continued with the latest Census conducted in 2000. The population shift has been uneven. Cities expand and suburbs spill over into the countryside. New enterprises move into rural areas that have good education, health, recreational facilities, employment opportunities and quality electric service. This means new job opportunities for rural people and draws urban dwellers to the country as well.

## What have rural electric cooperatives accomplished in developing rural areas?

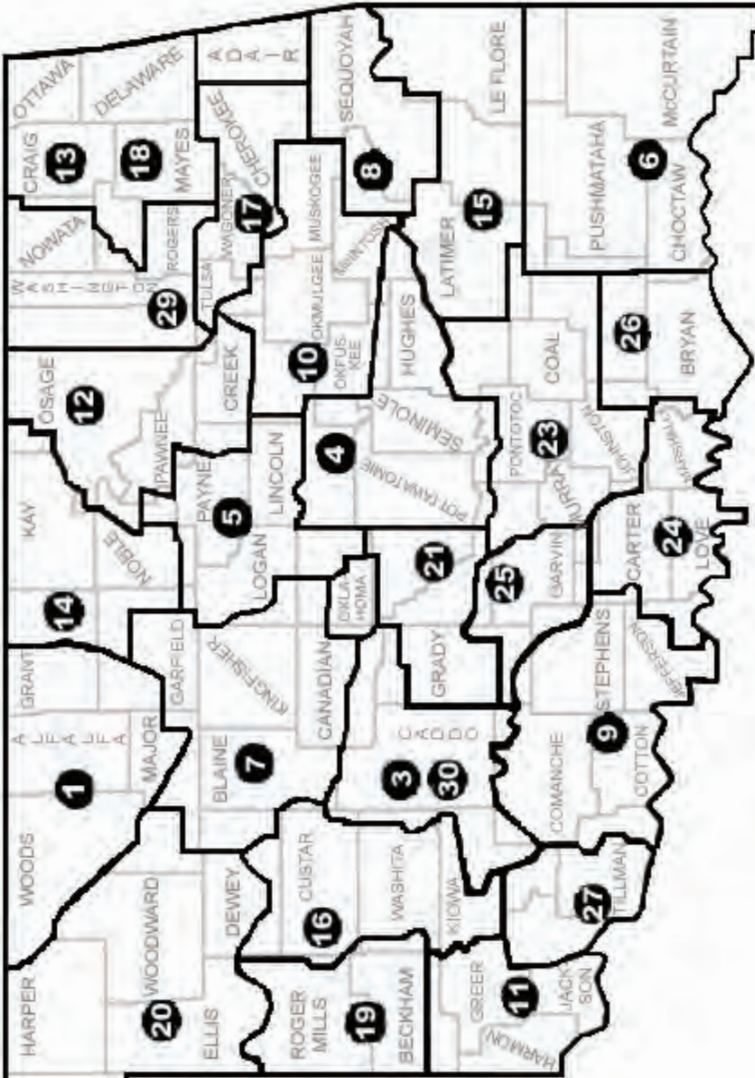
Dependable, affordable electric service is vital to rural area development and electric co-ops are bringing low-cost power to their service areas. These electric systems also work with other community leaders and take the lead to encourage new industries and better community facilities for rural areas. This development is essential, since it provides additional jobs, larger payrolls, and better living conditions which will make small towns and the countryside more attractive as places to live and work. Since 1961, rural electric and telephone systems have joined in sponsoring over 15,000 projects that have created over 2.5 million new jobs in rural America.

## What about the future? Can rural electric co-ops get along without RUS financing?

RUS is still a vital player in ensuring the growth and development of rural America. To take care of normal load growth and to meet rapid changes in technology, co-ops need millions of dollars in new capital each year. To supplement loans from RUS, the co-ops organized a private supplemental financing institution in 1969. The National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) made its first loan in 1971. CFC borrows in the commercial money market in order to furnish this supplemental financing. In its 32 year history, CFC has made loan commitments totaling more than \$21.5 billion.

## Do consumer-members of RUS borrower systems have more influence in the operations of their electric utility than customers of investor-owned systems?

Consumer-members exert considerable influence. They elect their own board of directors at their annual membership meetings; they take part in policy decisions involving such things as rates, community redevelopment, and conservation of electric energy; and can encourage legislative support on behalf of the entire membership. Members are actively encouraged to take part in the political process, electing responsible directors and exercising voting rights at all co-op elections.



CIMARRON TEXAS 28 BEAVER

- 1 ALFALFA ELECTRIC
- 2 ARKANSAS VALLEY ELECTRIC
- 3 CADDO ELECTRIC
- 4 CANADIAN VALLEY ELECTRIC
- 5 CENTRAL RURAL ELECTRIC
- 6 CHOCTAW ELECTRIC
- 7 CIMARRON ELECTRIC
- 8 COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC
- 9 COTTON ELECTRIC
- 10 EAST CENTRAL ELECTRIC
- 11 HARMON ELECTRIC
- 12 INDIAN ELECTRIC
- 13 KAMO POWER
- 14 KAY ELECTRIC
- 15 KIAMICHI ELECTRIC
- 16 KIWASH ELECTRIC
- 17 LAKE REGION ELECTRIC
- 18 NORTHEAST OK ELECTRIC
- 19 NORTHFORK ELECTRIC
- 20 NORTHWESTERN ELECTRIC
- 21 OKLAHOMA ELECTRIC
- 22 OZARKS ELECTRIC
- 23 PEOPLE'S ELECTRIC
- 24 RED RIVER VALLEY RURAL ELECTRIC
- 25 RURAL ELECTRIC
- 26 SOUTHEASTERN ELECTRIC
- 27 SOUTHWEST RURAL ELECTRIC
- 28 TRI-COUNTY ELECTRIC
- 29 VERDIGRIS VALLEY ELECTRIC
- 30 WESTERN FARMERS ELECTRIC

Answers to Sample Study Questions  
True/False Multiple Choice

- |      |       |      |       |
|------|-------|------|-------|
| 1. T | 9. T  | 1. a | 9. b  |
| 2. T | 10. F | 2. d | 10. c |
| 3. T | 11. F | 3. c |       |
| 4. T | 12. F | 4. c |       |
| 5. F | 13. T | 5. d |       |
| 6. F | 14. F | 6. a |       |
| 7. F | 15. F | 7. c |       |
| 8. F |       | 8. a |       |

# KAMO Power System Profile

KAMO Power is a non-profit generation and transmission utility that provides wholesale electric service to 17 owner-utilities. Collectively, these 17 distribution cooperatives supply electric power to some 287,746 cooperative members in northeastern Oklahoma and southwestern Missouri.

Corporate offices and a service center are in Vinita, Oklahoma. Area offices are located at El Dorado Springs, Spokane and Neosho in Missouri, and at Cleveland and Muskogee in Oklahoma. Satellite crews are stationed at Stillwater and Collinsville in Oklahoma. KAMO's 111 employees operate and maintain 2,013 miles of energized transmission line, 239 substations and an extensive microwave system. Additionally, KAMO is building a fiber optic system on its power lines in Missouri and Oklahoma.

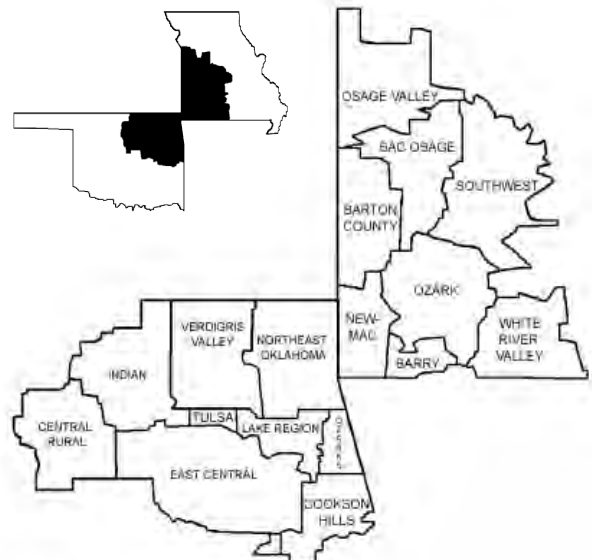
KAMO owns a 38 percent undivided interest in the Grand River Dam Authority Unit # 2, a coal-fired generation plant with a net capacity of 520 megawatts, and KAMO is one of the six generation and transmission utilities that own Associated Electric Cooperative, Incorporated (AECI), Springfield, Missouri. AECI is a wholesale power cooperative with a generation capacity of 5,109 megawatts and interconnections with 42 other utilities in the Midwest.

In 2010 KAMO delivered over 6.4 million megawatt-hours of energy to its owner-utilities at an average cost of 52.67 mills per kilowatt-hour. Total sales for 2010 were \$340 million, and at the end of the year KAMO Power's assets totaled \$581 million.

## KAMO Power Distribution Cooperatives

1. Osage Valley Electric Cooperative
2. Sac-Osage Electric Cooperative
3. Barton County Electric Cooperative
4. Southwest Electric Cooperative
5. Ozarks Electric Cooperative
6. New-Mac Electric Cooperative
7. Barry Electric Cooperative
8. White River Valley Electric Cooperative
9. Indian Electric Cooperative
10. Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative
11. Northeast Oklahoma Electric Cooperative
12. East Central Oklahoma Electric Co-op
13. Lake Region Electric Cooperative
14. Central Rural Electric Cooperative
15. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative
16. Ozarks Electric Cooperative (Arkansas)
17. Kiamichi Electric Cooperative

## KAMO AND ITS MEMBER-SYSTEMS SERVICE AREA



# Western Farmers Electric Cooperative

In existence since 1941, Western Farmers Electric Cooperative (WFEC) has grown into Oklahoma's largest locally owned power supply system. WFEC is a generation and transmission cooperative which provides essential electric service to 19 member-owner systems in Oklahoma, 4 member-owner systems in New Mexico, Altus Air Force Base, and some 11 municipal electric systems. .

With three generation plants located at Mooreland, Anadarko and Hugo, WFEC has total capacity of more than 1,400 megawatts when purchased hydro-power is considered. Natural gas-fired generation is 678 megawatts; coal-fired generation is 450 megawatts; hydro allocation is 279 megawatts; and in 2003, WFEC signed an agreement to purchase a maximum of 64 megawatts of windpower in southwestern Oklahoma.

About 45 percent of all electricity sold by WFEC and its member-owners is sold to commercial and industrial customers. Some industrial members use as much as 4 million kiloWatt-hours of electricity each month!

WFEC's transmission facilities include more than 3,600 miles of high-voltage transmission line, and more than 251 substations. WFEC employs some 359 full-time employees. As of December 31, 2010, WFEC had sales of over 7.5 million mega-Watt hours of electricity. Total operating revenues from the sale of electric energy exceeded \$450 million.

## **WFEC Member Distribution Cooperatives**

1. Cimarron Electric Cooperative
2. Kay Electric Cooperative
3. Caddo Electric Cooperative
4. Oklahoma Electric Cooperative
5. Alfalfa Electric Cooperative
6. Red River Valley REA
7. Southwest Rural Electric Association
8. People's Electric Cooperative
9. Northfork Electric Cooperative
10. Rural Electric Cooperative
11. Kiwash Electric Cooperative
12. Cotton Electric Cooperative
13. East Central Oklahoma Electric Cooperative
14. Harmon Electric Cooperative
15. Southeastern Electric Cooperative
16. Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative
17. Choctaw Electric Cooperative
18. Northwestern Electric Cooperative
19. Kiamichi Electric Cooperative

By April 1942, the decision was made to make Anadarko, Oklahoma, the main headquarters facility; 30 acres of land was purchased on the northeast side of the city for construction of plant facilities and office space.

Cooperating with the government, the WFEC board of trustees shut down its construction at the start of World War II and released the newly-acquired generators to be used in the war effort. When the war ended, WFEC added an additional member to its ranks (11), and with new construction plans, began producing power in 1950.

Four New Mexico RECs joined WFEC in 2011, bringing the number of member-owners to its present day total of 23, which supply power to 2/3 of Oklahoma and part of eastern New Mexico.

# Sample questions

## About RECs (answers pg. 17)

- \_\_\_ 1. RUS makes loans for rural electrification to cooperatives.
- \_\_\_ 2. CFC is a cooperative which makes loans to members with funds from the sale of bonds to private investors.
- \_\_\_ 3. In a rural electric cooperative each member has one vote regardless of how much electric power he/she uses.
- \_\_\_ 4. The Rural Utilities Service was formed in October, 1994.
- \_\_\_ 5. RUS controls and operates the typical rural electric cooperative.
- \_\_\_ 6. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) is a government agency.
- \_\_\_ 7. Rural electric cooperatives established the National Rural Utilities Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC) as a substitute for RUS.
- \_\_\_ 8. Rural electric cooperatives pay no taxes.
- \_\_\_ 9. Rural electric cooperative are non-profit organizations.
- \_\_\_ 10. RUS stands for Rural Utilities Society.
- \_\_\_ 11. Co-op members are not allowed to vote at their annual meeting until they have been a member for five years.
- \_\_\_ 12. NRECA provides electricity to the State-wide organizations who provide it to the local distribution co-ops.
- \_\_\_ 13. RUS and CFC loan money to rural electric cooperatives.
- \_\_\_ 14. The Rural Electric Youth Tour is always held in October of each year.
- \_\_\_ 15. President Theodore Roosevelt started the Rural Electric Administration.

## Multiple Choice:

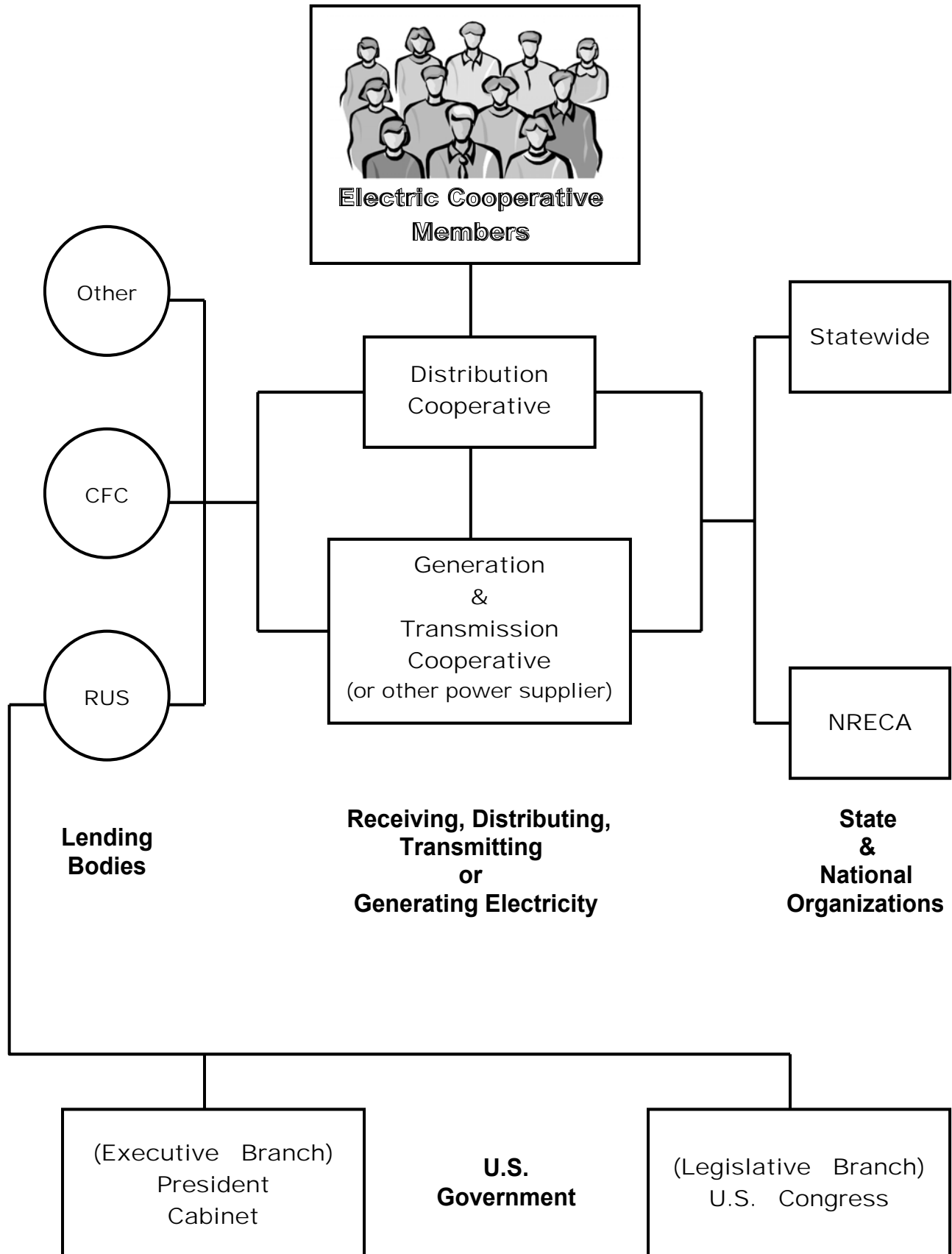
- \_\_\_ 1. The number of states that have a state-wide organization is: (a) 38 (b) 94 (c) 94 (d) 46
- \_\_\_ 2. Before electricity was available to rural residents there were some farmers who lived close enough to towns to receive electricity if they paid the full cost of connecting their homes. That cost per mile of line was: (a) \$100-\$200 (b) \$5-\$10 (c) 5000-\$7000 (d) \$2000-\$3000
- \_\_\_ 3. The Rural Utilities Services is one of 10 major agencies in: (a) Department of Defense (b) the Interior Department (c) Department of Agriculture (d) Department of Energy
- \_\_\_ 4. If you wanted to be the Administrator of RUS, you would have to be: (a) Chosen by NRECA (b) elected on a national ballot by co-op members (c) appointed by the President & confirmed by the Senate (d) a member of a local co-op.
- \_\_\_ 5. Which one of the following does NOT lend money to rural electric cooperative: (a) CFC (b) the Banks for Cooperatives (c) RUS (d) NRECA
- \_\_\_ 6. Which one of the following generates and transmits electricity: (a) G&Ts (b) CFC (c) Statewide organizations (d) NRECA
- \_\_\_ 7. Which of the following countries gets the credit for starting the first co-op: (a) France (b) Germany (c) England (d) United States
- \_\_\_ 8. NRECA's nearly 1000 member co-ops provide electricity to approximately: (a) 30 million people (b) 6000 people (c) 75 million people (d) 1 billion people
- \_\_\_ 9. Which of the following is NOT one of the Cooperative Principles: (a) Open Membership (b) Profits belong to Co-op (c) Democratic Control (d) Limited Return on Investments
- \_\_\_ 10. Membership in a rural electric co-op can be denied for only one of the following reasons: (a) religion (b) economic situation (c) geographic location (not in the co-op's service area) (d) nationality

## References

# Oklahoma State Statutes *affecting* Rural Electric Cooperatives

1. Enabling Act . . . . . §18-437.2
2. Territory Act . . . . . §17-158.21
3. Authority to vote out of Corporation Comm. . . . . §17-158.27
4. No Switching Law . . . . . §17-190.7
5. Addition of Optical Fiber to Electric Towers . . . . . §17-190
6. Power of Condemnation Moratorium . . . . . §11-21-222
7. Exemption of Excise & Income Tax . . . §18-437.25 & §68-1214
8. Gross Receipts for Municipalities . . . . . §68-2601
9. Classification for Taxation . . . . . §68-1801-1806
10. Motor Fuel Exemptions . . . . . §68-500.10
11. Motor Fuel Procedures for Tax Exempt Sales . . . . . §17-158.21

# Rural Electrification Organization Chart



*Rural Electric*  
**“Youth Tour”**  
**Contest**

*Win an all-expense paid, week-long trip to Washington, D.C.!*

**Official Entry Form**

My sponsoring Electric Cooperative is:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to qualify for this year’s “Youth Tour” sponsored by my local electric cooperative. I certify that I am a high school junior and understand that the material I submit in an essay contest or the test I take to qualify for this trip, becomes the property of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives for use at its discretion. I agree to abide by all the rules of the contest and by the decisions rendered by the judges at all levels of the competition.

**Please print plainly or type**

First Name:\_\_\_\_\_Middle (Required)\_\_\_\_\_ Last\_\_\_\_\_

Parent’s or Guardian’s Name:\_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address:\_\_\_\_\_

City:\_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code:\_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate:\_\_\_\_\_ Gender:\_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone:\_\_\_\_\_

Cell phone:\_\_\_\_\_ Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_

Email address:\_\_\_\_\_ Shirt size:\_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student:\_\_\_\_\_



## Official Entry Form

My sponsoring Electric Cooperative is:

\_\_\_\_\_

I would like to qualify for this year's "Energy Camp" sponsored by my local electric cooperative. I certify that I am in 8th grade and understand that the material I submit in an essay contest or the test I take to qualify for this trip, becomes the property of the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives for use at its discretion. I agree to abide by all the rules of the contest and by the decisions rendered by the judges at all levels of the competition.

### **Please print plainly or type**

First Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Middle (Required) \_\_\_\_\_ Last \_\_\_\_\_

Parent's or Guardian's Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Home Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Birthdate: \_\_\_\_\_ Gender: \_\_\_\_\_ Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Cellphone: \_\_\_\_\_ Email address: \_\_\_\_\_

T-shirt size: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature of Student: \_\_\_\_\_

## **Important Websites:**

[www.nreca.coop](http://www.nreca.coop)  
[www.nrtc.coop](http://www.nrtc.coop)  
[www.nrucfc.coop](http://www.nrucfc.coop)  
[www.touchstoneenergy.coop](http://www.touchstoneenergy.coop)  
[www.usda.gov/rus/electric](http://www.usda.gov/rus/electric)  
[www.aeci.org](http://www.aeci.org)  
[www.kamopower.com](http://www.kamopower.com)  
[www.wfec.coop](http://www.wfec.coop)

## **Oklahoma Co-op Information:**

Alfalfa Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 39  
Cherokee, OK 73728  
(580) 596-3575  
[www.alfalfaelectric.coop](http://www.alfalfaelectric.coop)

Caddo Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 70  
Binger, OK 73009  
(405) 656-2322  
[www.caddoelectric.com](http://www.caddoelectric.com)

Canadian Valley Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 751  
Seminole, OK 74868  
(405) 382-3680  
[www.canadianvalley.org](http://www.canadianvalley.org)

Central Rural Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 1809  
Stillwater, OK 74076  
(405) 372-2884  
[www.crec.coop](http://www.crec.coop)

Choctaw Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 758  
Hugo, OK 74743  
(580) 326-6486  
[www.choctawelectric.com](http://www.choctawelectric.com)

Cimarron Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 299  
Kingfisher, OK 73750  
(405) 375-4121  
[www.cimarronelectric.com](http://www.cimarronelectric.com)

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 539  
Stigler, OK 74462-0539  
(918) 967-4614  
[www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)

Cotton Electric Cooperative  
226 N. Broadway  
Walters, OK 73572  
(580) 875-3101  
[www.cottonelectric.com](http://www.cottonelectric.com)

East Central OK Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 1178  
Okmulgee, OK 74447-1178  
(910) 756-0833  
[www.ecoec.com](http://www.ecoec.com)

Harmon Electric Association  
PO Box 393  
Hollis, OK 73550  
(580) 688-3342  
[www.harmonelectric.com](http://www.harmonelectric.com)

Indian Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 49  
Cleveland, OK 74020  
(918) 358-2514  
[www.iecok.com](http://www.iecok.com)

Kay Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 607  
Blackwell, OK 74631  
(580) 363-1260  
[www.kayelectric.coop](http://www.kayelectric.coop)

Kiamichi Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 340  
Wilburton, OK 74578  
(918) 465-2338  
[www.kiamichielectric.org](http://www.kiamichielectric.org)

Kiwash Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 100  
Cordell, OK 73632  
(580) 832-3361  
[www.kiwash.coop](http://www.kiwash.coop)

Lake Region Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 127  
Hulbert, OK 74441  
(918) 772-2526  
[www.lrecok.coop](http://www.lrecok.coop)

Northeast OK Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 948  
Vinita, OK 74301  
(918) 256-6405  
[www.neelectric.com](http://www.neelectric.com)

Northfork Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 400  
Sayre, OK 73662-0400  
(580) 928-3366  
[www.nfecoop.com](http://www.nfecoop.com)

Northwestern Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 2707  
Woodward, OK 73802  
(580) 256-7425  
[www.nwecok.com](http://www.nwecok.com)

Oklahoma Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 1208  
Norman, OK 73069  
(405) 321-2024  
[www.okcoop.org](http://www.okcoop.org)

Ozarks Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 848  
Fayetteville, AR 72702  
(479) 521-2900  
[www.ozarksecc.com](http://www.ozarksecc.com)

People's Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 429  
Ada, OK 74820  
(580) 332-3031  
[www.peoplesec.com](http://www.peoplesec.com)

Red River Valley Rural Electric Association  
PO Box 220  
Marietta, OK 73448  
(580) 276-3364  
[www.rrvrea.com](http://www.rrvrea.com)

Rural Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 609  
Lindsay, OK 73052  
(405) 756-3104  
[www.recok.coop](http://www.recok.coop)

Southwest Rural Electric Association  
PO Box 310  
Tipton, OK 73570  
(580) 667-5281  
[www.swre.com](http://www.swre.com)

Tri-County Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 880  
Hooker, OK 73945  
(580) 652-2418  
[www.tri-countyelectric.coop](http://www.tri-countyelectric.coop)

Verdigris Valley Electric Cooperative  
PO Box 219  
Collinsville, OK 74021  
(918) 371-2584  
[www.vvec.com](http://www.vvec.com)



# Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives

Your Touchstone Energy® Partners 