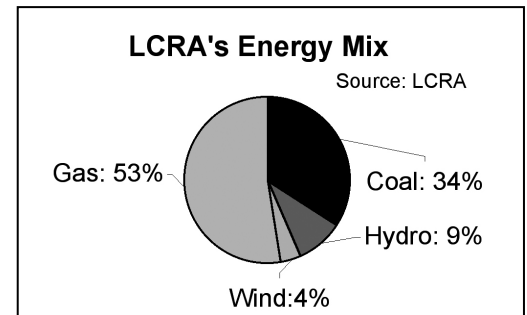


A New Course for the Pedernales Electric Cooperative?

Thanks to public outcry that led to a change in top management and to the election of three new board members, the Pedernales Electric Cooperative has begun to chart a new course for its future. The Board passed two resolutions last year setting ambitious goals for energy efficiency and for renewable energy like wind and solar.

- PEC purchases most of its power from the Lower Colorado River Authority, and the LCRA currently gets most of its energy from polluting sources of energy that are increasing in price. Texas leads the nation in emissions from coal plants of toxic mercury and carbon dioxide that contributes to climate change.
- As the LCRA's biggest customer, PEC needs to pressure LCRA to add more wind and solar to its energy portfolio and to drop plans for a new coal-burning plant. PEC's new Progressive Power Contract with LCRA allows the PEC to greatly increase the amount of energy it buys from renewable sources like wind and solar. "Progressive Power" refers to any technology or industry practice that is intended to make electric power more efficient or more cost-effective, or is intended to address an environmental concern. This includes but is not limited to demand-side management, conservation, energy efficiency, renewable energy, and distributed generation.
- PEC needs to create rebate programs that help customers meet the up-front costs of weatherizing their homes and installing energy-efficient appliances and solar panels. A recent study commissioned by the Public Utilities Commission of Texas concluded that Texas could lower peak energy demand by 23% and save consumers over \$11 billion through energy efficiency. No state has more potential for renewable energy production than Texas.
- Nuclear plants are not the answer to our energy needs. They consume enormous amounts of water and produce tons of radioactive waste that lasts for centuries. Nuclear plants are extremely costly and only possible through lavish tax subsidies that we cannot afford.



Renewable Energy and Energy Efficiency Work!

Energy efficiency is much less expensive than new power plants. Efficiency costs \$300 per kilowatt hour compared to \$750 / KW for a natural gas plant, \$2500/KW for a pulverized coal plant and \$2800/KW for a nuclear plant.

- The City of Austin gets 8% of its energy from renewable sources today and plans to increase this to 30% by 2020. Its award-winning energy efficiency program has already prevented the construction of one coal-burning power plant and saved its customers millions of dollars in lower utility bills.

For more information, see
www.cleanenergyfortexas.org

WHAT YOU CAN DO

- Vote in next June's PEC board elections for candidates with a proven commitment to badly needed reforms and implementing programs for renewable energy and energy efficiency. The 'old guard' on the PEC board has generally defended past behavior at PEC and obstructed efforts for reform. Recently elected board members Patrick Cox, Charles Tesar and Kathryn Scanlan have championed reform and a clean energy future for the PEC.
- Consult the U.S. Dept. of Energy's *Energy Star Guide* before buying major appliances. Energy efficient models cost more up front but save money over the life of the product, use less electricity and are less polluting. See www.energystar.gov.
- Consider waiting wait till Memorial Day Weekend before buying a new major appliance. A new state law (HB 3693) declares a sales tax holiday on those days for qualified, energy-efficient appliances. To learn more, see www.window.state.tx.us/taxinfo/taxpubs/tx98_836/1.
- Contact your state senator and representatives. Urge them to support legislation to encourage the development of more clean and renewable energy sources like wind and solar in Texas, and to set ambitious energy efficiency goals for our state. See

TAKE ACTION NOW!

As member and customer of the Pedernales Electric Cooperative, you have a right to be heard! Please write the board and general manager of PEC, using the sample below as a guide:

Dear _____ :

I am writing as a PEC member to thank the board for passing resolutions to meet 20% of our energy needs through efficiency and conservation, and 30% of from renewable energy sources, by 2020. I now urge you adopt proposed rules to establish energy efficiency as a priority resource; set electric rates in a way that promotes energy efficiency; consider smart grid investments; and give PEC members access to information on sources of power provided by PEC and on time-based electricity prices and usage. These steps will help assure timely implementation of last year's resolutions, create jobs locally, protect our environment and save ratepayers money. Respectfully, *(Remember to include your full name and address)*

Address your letters to:

General Manager Juan Garza
Pedernales Electric
P.O. Box 1
Johnson City, TX 78636-0001

PEC Board
Pedernales Electric
P.O. Box 1
Johnson City, TX 78636-0001

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