

Regular Board of Directors *Meeting Notes*

April 12, 2021

Recognition of Former BTU Board Member

Mr. Gary Miller, General Manager, presented Mr. Carl Benner with a gift in appreciation for his many years of service to the BTU Board of Directors.

Presentation of Customer Satisfaction Survey

Mr. David Werley, Chief Business Officer, introduced Mr. Dan Quatrocelli of GreatBlue Research, who presented the results of the BTU 2020 Electric Utility Customer Satisfaction Survey. Mr. Quatrocelli explained that approximately 600 residential and 200 commercial customers were surveyed about their customer satisfaction and perception of BTU services. 88.8% of customers reported that BTU meets, somewhat exceeds, or exceeds their expectations. BTU ranked well over the national average score for public power utilities of 82.3%.

Approval of a Contract for the Kurten Substation Project Design

The Board approved a contract with M&S Engineering for the Kurten Substation Project Design.

Presentation of the FY2020 BTU Annual Performance Report

Mr. William Smith, Chief Financial Officer, presented the Annual Performance Report as an overview of BTU's operational and financial performance for Fiscal Year 2020.

Approval of a Recommendation of a Revised BTU Rate Ordinance

The Board approved a recommendation to the Bryan City Council for a new Electric Rate Ordinance to include an additional market-access transmission level rate.

Presentation of Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS)

Mr. Doug Lyles, Executive Director of Business and Customer Operations, presented information regarding BTU's transmission system and the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (ERCOT) Transmission Cost of Service (TCOS).

Approval of a Contract for Phase 1B of the Overhead to Underground Conversion of Texas Ave.

Mr. Randy Trimble, Executive Director of Energy Delivery, presented the bid tabulations for Phase 1B of the overhead to underground conversion along Texas Ave. After evaluating all bids, Staff determined that PowerLine Services, Inc. was the lowest responsible bidder for the project. The Board approved a contract with PowerLine Services, Inc. for Phase 1B of the overhead to underground conversion along Texas Ave.

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803

email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

www.btutilities.com

Hours of Operation

Monday - Friday, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Board of Directors

Mr. A. Bentley Nettles, Chairman
 Ms. Rosemarie Selman, Vice Chairman
 Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Secretary
 Mr. John A. Bond
 Mr. Paul Madison, Sr.
 Mr. Greg S. Owens
 Mr. Paul Turney
 Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio
 Mr. Buppy Simank, Ex-Officio

General Manager

Gary Miller

Executive Directors

Doug Lyles
 Randy Trimble
 Wes Williams
 David Werley, Chief Business Officer

Division Managers

James Bodine
 Nick Cook
 Shawndra Curry
 Ken Lindberg
 Clay Lindstrom
 Gary Massey
 Vicki Reim

City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager
 Will Smith, Chief Financial Officer
 Bernie Acre, Chief Information Officer

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES

KIOSKS

BTU Drive Thru – 205 E. 28th St. (Open 24 Hours)
 HEB Grocery – Tejas Center on Villa Maria
 HEB Grocery – Texas Ave. & Hwy 21

WAYS TO PAY



CASH



CHECK



CARD

Bring your BTU account number, BTU bill, keycard or reminder letter.

Important Numbers

Billing/Collections/Connects

(979) 821-5700

Electrical Outage/Lines Down

(979) 822-3777

Distribution/Line Design

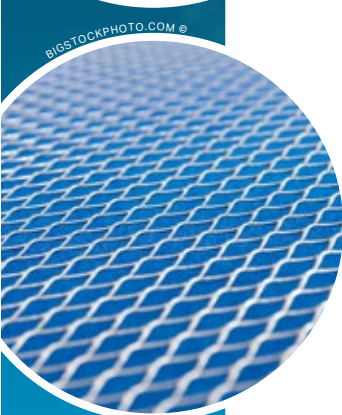
(979) 821-5770



ENERGY EFFICIENCY SUMMER CHORE CHECKLIST

Now that the temperature is getting warmer, it's a great time to get your home in shape by doing a few chores that will help you be more comfortable this summer.

- ☐ **Clean the refrigerator coils.** The condenser coils remove heat from the refrigeration unit, and dusty coils can make your refrigerator work harder – and cost more to operate. To clean the coils, turn off the power to the refrigerator and use a vacuum cleaner with a brush attachment. Be gentle so as not to yank any wiring or tubing loose.
- ☐ **Check the refrigerator door gasket.** Check the gasket all the way around the door for tears or cracks, then clean the gasket with soap and water. Next, test the seal by closing the door on a dollar bill, then pull the dollar out. If you feel a little resistance, the seal is fine. However, if it easily pulls out, it may be time to replace the gasket.
- ☐ **Clean the range hood and filter.** Remove the grease filter and allow it to soak in hot soapy water for 30 minutes, then rinse it well and allow it to dry fully before replacing. While the filter is out, check the exhaust fan blades for grease buildup and gently wipe the blades with a soapy dishcloth.
- ☐ **Clean the bathroom vent fan.** Remove the cover and wash it with soap and water. Gently vacuum out the fan unit with a brush attachment. Look for any signs of mold in the vent tubing – this means you may be turning off your vent fan too early after a bath or shower. If so, keep the fan running for 20 minutes after a bath or shower to remove all moisture and allow the vent tubing to dry.
- ☐ **Clean all the ceiling fan blades.** Use dryer sheets to clean off the ceiling fan blades. Not only are these sheets great at picking up dust, but they also leave behind a residue that will repel dust for a while. After you are finished cleaning the fan blades, make sure the blades are rotating counterclockwise for the summer season. If not, adjust the switch on the side of the motor. Also, fans do not reduce the temperature in a room – the room just feels cooler to people because of the air movement caused by the fan blades. Turn off ceiling fans when no one is in the room.
- ☐ **Change the air conditioner filter.** Replacing your air filter in a timely manner allows the system to run more efficiently and effectively, keeping you more comfortable, saving money, and extending the life of your system. Use a filter that is MERV rated for your system, and change the filter according to your system manufacturers guidelines - more frequently if your home has children or pets.
- ☐ **Change water and icemaker filters, too.** Most manufacturers recommend changing your water and icemaker filters every six months to keep mold and mildew from growing in the filter and contaminating your water. While this tip may not affect energy efficiency, it does promote healthy consumption of clean water.
- ☐ **Change out any incandescent light bulbs with LED bulbs.** If your home still has any incandescent light bulbs, change them out now with long-lasting, energy efficient LED bulbs. LED bulbs use 75% less energy and last 25 times longer than incandescent bulbs, and they are cool to the touch. The costs of LED bulbs have come down over the past few years to the point that it costs much more to keep using an incandescent bulb than immediately switching to an LED.



Power Line AWARENESS

Most of us pay little attention to overhead power lines, as they are so commonplace across our landscape. However, these power lines carry a high-voltage electrical current that has the potential to cause serious injury and fatalities if you come into contact with them.

BTU would like to remind our customers to always keep these tips in mind when working near overhead power lines, including the service drop from the transformer to your home:

- **Always monitor your surroundings.**

Before you plan any work that occurs overhead, survey the exact location of all overhead power lines, especially if you will be using ladders or long tools.

- **Stay at least 10 feet away from power lines.**

Use the 10-foot rule as the minimum distance to maintain from power lines. If you are using a 15-foot ladder, then the minimum distance from a power line now becomes 15 feet as well. The ladder or tool doesn't even need to contact the lines, as electricity can jump through the air to any grounding source that is in close proximity.

- **Use extreme caution operating dump trucks or lift vehicles near overhead power lines.**

Many power outages are caused by dump or lift trucks operating their lifts into power lines or driving under power lines before their bed or boom is fully lowered. These incidents are easily avoidable by following standard safety practices.

- **Always assume downed power lines are energized.**

Stay at least 100 feet away from downed power lines, as they carry a strong current that can travel through the ground (especially wet ground) or nearby objects. While BTU has safety equipment in place to de-energize damaged power infrastructure components, it is best to assume downed power lines are still energized and dangerous.

- **Keep kites, balloons, and other objects far away from power lines.**

Kites and balloons can easily get tangled in power lines, causing power outages and power line damage. If the wind does push your kite anywhere near a power line, let go of it immediately.

- **Never attempt to remove an object from a power line.**

If you see a limb, kite, or balloon entangled in a power line, report it immediately to BTU at 979-822-3777. If a string or line is hanging down from a wire, do not touch it and keep others from touching it until a utility crew arrives on the scene.

- **If your vehicle comes into contact with a live power line, stay inside and call 911.**

Even if the power line does not come into direct contact with the vehicle, the ground around the vehicle may be energized. If possible, roll down your windows and warn others to stay away. If there is a fire and you must exit the vehicle, open the door and jump as far away as possible, landing with both feet together. Shuffle away from the vehicle with both feet touching the ground at all times.



TO REPAIR OR REPLACE?

That is the Appliance Question

Our home appliances make life easier and more comfortable, but they were not made to last forever. When these appliances break down, we face a decision as to whether we spend our money on repairing the appliance or spend even more money to replace it. There are several factors to consider when making this decision, including the estimated repair cost, the age of the appliance, and advances in energy efficiency.

If your relatively new appliance is not working properly, be sure to check to see if it is plugged in or if the outlet has power before calling for repairs. Also, check to see if the appliance is still under warranty, as a factory authorized technician may be able to fix the appliance at no charge. If repairs are needed beyond the warranty period, have a technician provide you with an estimate on the total repair costs, then use the 50% rule of thumb: if the appliance is more than 50% through its useful lifespan and the estimated cost of the repair is more than 50% of buying a new appliance, then it is likely better to replace than repair.

An appliance's average useful lifespan is the amount of time over which breakdowns become inevitable or changes in technology or efficiency have rendered them less desirable. As appliances near the end of their useful life span, more consideration should be placed on replacing the appliance. The chart below shows the average useful lifespan of common household appliances, according to a study by the National Association of Home Builders:

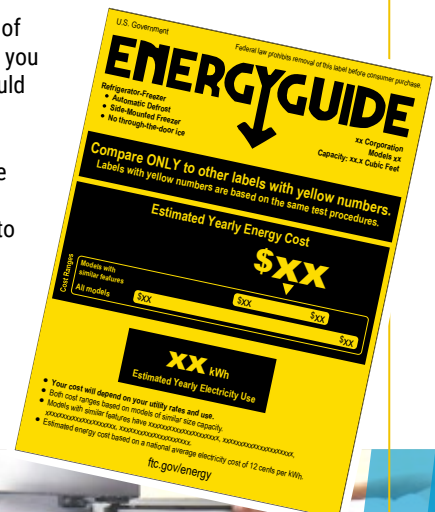
Appliance	Useful Life in Years
Microwave Oven	9
Dishwasher	9
Washer	10
Window Air Conditioner	10
Freezer	11
Electric Water Heater	11
Garbage Disposal	12
Electric Dryer	13
Electric Range	13
Refrigerator	13
Range/Oven Hood	14
Central Air Conditioner	15
Electric Furnace	15
Heat Pump	16
Tankless Water Heater	20

Of course, many appliances can continue working years beyond their average useful lifespan, so you must also consider the impact of the inevitable breakdown. For example, if a 15-year-old garbage disposal breaks down, the inconvenience is relatively minor. However, if a 15-year-old freezer breaks down and all the contents melt, the loss of those frozen goods can be a significant additional expense.

Another consideration for replacing appliances beyond their useful lifespan are the improvements in energy efficiencies. As a result of technological improvements made by appliance manufacturers, newer machines use less electricity, have more features, and are made to last longer than appliances produced ten or more years ago.

For example, a new Energy Star® rated refrigerator uses 10 to 50 percent less energy than older standard models, and can feature a CFC-free sealed system, more storage, and easy cleaning. A new washer uses 30 percent less energy than older models and can feature a larger capacity, better cleaning, quieter operation, preprogrammed cycle selections, and greatly reduced water usage.

It is a wise idea to take stock of the age of your appliances so you can anticipate when they should be replaced. You may want to put a small amount of money aside each month to cover the inevitable replacement costs, which will also give you time to wisely consider options and take advantage of sales.



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WARM WEATHER ENERGY TIPS: *Myths & Facts*

We have all heard many statements about living in a hot and humid climate, but which of these are true and which may be tall tales?

Fact: Heating and cooling costs account for nearly 50 percent of a home's energy bill.

How can I save?

- Set your thermostat to at least 78°F or higher in the summer.
- Change air filters regularly to prevent your heating, ventilating, and air conditioning (HVAC) system from having to work harder to cool your home, saving money on energy costs and extending the life of your unit.
- Have a professional maintain your HVAC at least twice per year, prior to the major heating and cooling seasons.

Myth: Keeping my thermostat at a constant temperature is better than adjusting it up and down.

How can I save?

- While turning the thermostat down by an excessive amount could waste energy, adjusting the temperature by a few degrees to fit your schedule can save energy. Cooling your home while you are not there to enjoy it wastes energy and money.
- Invest in a programmable thermostat to create a schedule that matches when you will be at home and when you will be away. If the family is at work and school during the day on weekdays, set the temperature to go up during this time. Set the program to reduce the temperature in the evenings and weekends when you will be home.
- Programmable thermostat prices range from a couple hundred dollars for a Wi-Fi capable model to around \$20 for a simplified model.

Fact: Windows and doors can be a source of air leakage. Your mother constantly pestering you to pick inside or outside and quit opening the door was a good way to save energy.

How can I save?

- Windows and doors should have weather-stripping or caulking around the frames to reduce the airflow from inside to outside.
- Weather-stripping is low-cost and easily installed after visiting your local hardware store.



- Windows should also be ENERGY STAR® rated to ensure they reduce the home's heat gain from the sun. You could receive a 10-25 percent incentive payment based on your project costs through BTU's SmartHOME Program! For more information or to apply visit btutilities.com

Myth: Ceiling fans should be left on all the time to help circulate the air.

How can I save?

- While ceiling fan energy usage does not account for a large percentage of a home's overall energy consumption, you can save by only using fans when you need them.
- Ceiling and stand fans only cool people by using a wind chill effect; they do not cool spaces. Only turn ceiling and stand fans on when you will be in the room to enjoy them.

Fact: Humidity can make your home feel warmer, and could cause damage to your home. Humidity decreases the body's ability to naturally cool itself. Over time, excess humidity can cause mold, mildew, rot and other issues for your home.

How can I save?

- Humidity makes it feel warmer than it actually is. Removing humidity from your home will help you feel cooler.



- Use spot ventilation fans to remove humidity in the air in the kitchen and bathroom that is generated while cooking or bathing. Laundry rooms can also benefit from spot ventilation.
- Dehumidifiers can also be used in homes with humidity problems. Invest in an ENERGY STAR® model to maximize savings.

Myth: Insulation only helps to keep your home warm in the winter.

Insulation helps prevent heat transference, which includes losing heat in the winter or gaining it in the summer.



How can I save?

- Make sure insulation levels are at least an R-30. If you cannot remember the last time your insulation was upgraded, it may be time to invest in some. By upgrading insulation, you could receive a 10 to 25 percent incentive

payment based on your project costs through BTU's SmartHOME Program.

- Insulation is most associated with attics, but sufficient insulation should also exist in exterior walls and underneath the home if it is a pier and beam or mobile home model.

Fact: Using heat-producing appliances during the hottest part of the day increases heat in the home.

How can I save?

- Avoid using the dryer or the dry setting on your dishwasher during the hot afternoon hours. These appliances add heat and humidity to your home, causing your HVAC to work harder and run longer to reach the desired temperature.
- Try grilling outside or using a slow cooker to prepare meals. Using the oven or stovetop adds more heat to the home.
- Make sure all appliances are ENERGY STAR® rated. This certification ensures that the appliances operate at the highest level of efficiency, reducing energy costs.



- Replace traditional lightbulbs with LEDs. LEDs last 25 times longer and are 75 percent more efficient than traditional bulbs. Traditional bulbs are hot to the touch because they give off heat, which wastes energy, while LEDs are cool to the touch because they do not waste energy through heat production.

Myth: Bigger is better when it comes to HVAC systems. An undersized system will have to work overtime to try to cool the space, but an oversized system could have imbalanced cooling areas and cause humidity problems.

How can I save?

- A professional should size your unit(s) to match the size and layout of your home.
- The average residential HVAC should last between 15-20 years. If your system is oversized, it likely will not last as long because it is constantly "short cycling", turning on and off too quickly.



Celebrating BRYAN'S SOLID WASTE DEPARTMENT

Waste & Recycling Workers Week is June 13-19, 2021

With more than 25,000 residential and commercial customers to serve each week, the City of Bryan's Solid Waste Department works hard all year to keep our community clean, safe and beautiful. June 13-19, 2021 is Waste & Recycling Works Week, which is a time for us to come together to show our appreciation for the men and women in the waste management industry.

The Solid Waste Department is made up of Residential and Commercial Solid Waste Collection, Brush & Bulky Collection, Recycling and the Public Works Call Center. Forty-five employees support the department, handling daily trash and brush & bulky collection, fielding phone calls and manning the DIY Used Oil & Tire Recycling Center. These are essential services that keep the Bryan community safe and healthy.

So, just how much waste and recycling do they handle?

66K TONS ANNUALLY		COMMERCIAL COLLECTION		41 STREET SWEEPER ROUTES		DIY USED OIL & TIRE RECYCLING CENTER	
RESIDENTIAL DRIVERS		7 DAYS A WEEK		BRUSH		24K TIRES	
1100 STOPS PER DAY	480 TONS PER WEEK	576 TONS PER WEEK		104 TONS PER WEEK	105 TONS PER WEEK	5K GALLONS OF USED OIL	

- Annually, we collect about 66,000 tons of waste from residential and commercial customers, which is disposed at the landfill.
- On average, residential drivers collect between 900 and 1,100 stops per day, while collecting over 480 tons of waste per week.
- Commercial collection operates seven days a week, with six routes starting as early as 4 a.m. to avoid traffic congestion. Commercial services averages 576 tons of waste per week.
- Street sweepers have 41 routes throughout the city to help maintain roadways free of litter and debris.
- Brush & Bulky crews operate 8 routes each day, collecting more than 104 tons of brush and 105 tons of bulky items per week.
- The city's new DIY Used Oil and Tire Recycling Center just opened this year and is on pace to recycle 24,000 tires and about 5,000 gallons of used oil.

If you would like more information about a particular service, call **979.209.5900**. The Public Works Call Center is available to assist you over the phone Monday through Friday from 7:30 a.m. to 5 p.m.

To report after-hour emergencies, please call BTU Dispatch at **979.822.3777**.

Lake Bryan

BRYAN, TEXAS



EXPLORE THE GREAT OUTDOORS

Lake Bryan is a favorite among nature lovers and anglers. The Texas Parks and Wildlife Department (TPWD) fertilizes the water annually to improve vegetation and fish habitat. The Lake is stocked with a variety of fish including largemouth bass, catfish, crappie, tilapia, carp and sunfish. TPWD recently stocked Lake Bryan with hundreds of thousands of fingerling length redbird. Lake Bryan covers 829 acres with a maximum depth of 45 feet.

With more than 20 miles of hiking and biking trails, Lake Bryan is also local favorite for bikers, bird watchers, and naturalists alike. There are trails ranging in difficulty for your choice of a leisurely or more challenging ride and many places to observe wildlife.

Host an event at the pavilion, visit for the day, or stay a while at either our RV sites or traditional camping sites! Both are in close proximity to grills, picnic tables, and trash receptacles.



Learn more at:
lakebryan.com

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CITY OF BRYAN
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