

# A TIMELINE OF AMERICA'S ELECTRIC COOPERATIVES



**1900-1929**

Electricity transformed U.S. cities, boosting quality of life and productivity. By the late 1920s, most urban homes were wired. Private utilities, however, deemed rural areas too costly to serve due to distance and sparse populations.

**1937-1940**

Dozens of co-ops — many in Texas — energize homes for the first time. The electric cooperative that became Bluebonnet is founded in 1939.



**Mid-1960s**

Cooperatives begin computerized billing and records.

**Late 1960s-1970s**

Utilities introduce control centers for real-time monitoring of electric grids and management of power loads. Coordination among co-ops improves power reliability and planning.



**2000s-2010s**

Co-ops begin adopting technologies that remotely collect electric usage data and automate parts of the power distribution system, allowing the grid to detect faults, reroute power and alert control centers.



**1935**

President Franklin D. Roosevelt establishes the Rural Electrification Administration to bring electricity to rural America through low-interest loans.



**1940**

Nearly 600 cooperatives in 46 states serve nearly 1.5 million rural Americans. With support from REA, co-ops build 200,000+ miles of power lines.



**1980s-1990s**

Electric co-ops implement supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA, systems to monitor power lines and substations, and geographic information system technology to improve outage response.



**1995**

The International Cooperative Alliance adopts the Seven Cooperative Principles. **(See above.)**



**Today**

Nearly 900 electric distribution cooperatives serve 42 million people across 48 states, powering over 22 million homes, businesses and farms.

