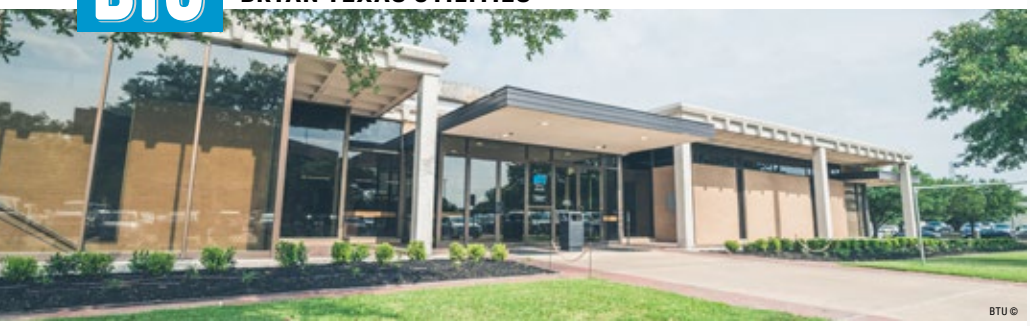
BTU ©

# Regular Board of Directors MEETING NOTES | January 8, 2024

### Bond Issuance for the Rural System

The Board approved Resolution No. BTU-P-300 recommending the Bryan City Council authorize the issuance of $15,000,000 in revenue bonds for the Rural Electric System Capital Improvement Projects.

### Contract Approvals

The Board approved a contract with Axis Power, LLC for Phase III of the Texas Avenue Overhead to Underground Conversion project.

The Board approved a contract with Utility Construction Service, LLC for the RELLIS Substation Tap 138kV project.


**RELLIS Campus**

CITY OF BRYAN ©

## BTU KIOSKS

Pay using cash, card or check at any one of our three convenient locations by entering your account number, listed on either your bill or your reminder letter, or by scanning a keycard provided by BTU. Keycards can be requested in the BTU main office.

**KIOSK LOCATIONS**

- **BTU Drive Thru** – *open 24 hours*
- **HEB at Texas Ave. & Hwy 21** – *open 6am-12am*
- **HEB in the Tejas Center** – *open 6am-12am*

BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES
BTU
THE DIFFERENCE IS YOU

**BRYAN TEXAS UTILITIES**
205 East 28th Street • Bryan, TX 77803
email: ContactBTU@btutilities.com

**btutilities.com**

**Hours of Operation**
Monday - Friday, 8 AM - 5 PM

### Board of Directors

Ms. Rosemarie L. Selman, Chair
Mr. Pete J. Bienski, Jr., Vice Chair
Mr. Paul Madison, Sr., Secretary
Mr. John A. Bond
Mr. Andrew Nelson
Mr. A. Bentley Nettles
Mr. Buppy Simank
Mr. Jason Bienski, Ex-Officio
Mr. Kevin Boriskie, 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

### City of Bryan

Kean Register, City Manager
William J. Smith, Chief Financial Officer

## Important Numbers

**Billing/Collections/Connects**
(979) 821-5700

**Electrical Outage/Lines Down**
(979) 822-3777

**Line Design**
(979) 821-5770

## Social Media

**BryanTexasUtilities**
**BTU_BryanTX**
**cityofbryan**

BTU ©

BTU ©

# BTU 138kV West Loop Project: A Transformative Journey

In 2019, BTU embarked on a significant initiative—the BTU 138kV West Loop project. This endeavor aimed to enhance the resilience and capacity of our transmission system, ensuring a robust and reliable energy infrastructure for the communities we serve. The culmination of this multi-year project occurred in 2023, marking a series of major milestones that underscore our commitment to resiliency.

## 2019: Laying the Foundation

The project commenced with the construction of a pivotal 6-mile stretch of 138kV transmission line, linking the Snook Substation to the Steele Store Substation. This foundational phase, completed in 2019, set the stage for subsequent advancements.

## 2020: Strengthening Infrastructure

In 2020, project milestones included constructing a 138kV terminal at the Snook Substation and transforming the Steele Store Substation from a radial 69kV station to a looped 138kV station. These efforts laid the groundwork for increased transmission capacity and improved system reliability.

## 2022: Expanding Capacities

2022 witnessed substantial progress with the construction of the Leonard Road Substation, initially designed as a radial 69kV substation but strategically engineered with the capability to convert to a 138kV looped station. Simultaneously, two aging radial 69kV substations were replaced by the 138kV Smetana Substation, complemented by the construction of a 4-mile transmission line connecting Steele Store to Smetana.

## 2023: Culmination of Success

The final phase of the BTU 138kV West Loop project unfolded in 2023. BTU successfully completed the 5-mile transmission line connecting Smetana Substation to Leonard Road Substation. Additionally, Leonard Road Substation underwent a transformation, transitioning from a 69kV to a 138kV station.

A pivotal achievement in 2023 was the completion of the conversion of the Atkins Substation to Leonard Road Substation transmission line from 69kV to 138kV, closing the loop and concluding the BTU 138kV West Loop project. This comprehensive and strategic undertaking enhances the efficiency and reliability of the BTU transmission system.

BTU ©

# HOW MUCH DOES MY ELECTRICITY USE COST?

**We're constantly using electricity to run devices, appliances, and more. How much does each of these items really cost to run?**

**Using the average electric cost for a residential public power customer - 11.5 cents per kilowatt-hour - and the average electricity used by each item, it costs...**

SOURCES
Energy Information Administration; Department of Energy, Estimating Appliance and Home Electronic Energy Use, https://energy.gov/energysaver/estimating-appliance-and-home-electronic-energy-use; Lawrence Berkeley National Labs, Standby Power Summary Table, http://standby.lbl.gov/summary-table.html; http://www.fsec.ucf.edu/en/publications/pdf/FSEC-CR-1772-08.pdf; Saving Electricity/Mr. Electricity http://michaelbluejay.com/electricity/howmuch.html; http://yardinflatablelife.com/how-much-electricity-does-a-yard-inflatable-use/

**$1.05**

**to cook a turkey in an electric oven**

*Assumes 4 hours of roasting.*

**to use a desktop computer for 8 hours**

**$0.07**

**to run a refrigerator for one day**

*Assumes a 225-watt refrigerator operating 24 hours/day.*

**$0.21**

**$0.17-$0.73**

**to run one dishwasher cycle**

*Range depends on efficiency of washer and how much hot water is used from an electric water heater.*

**to keep a household's water heated for a month**

**$46-$77**

*Assumes 4,500-watt water heater, running between 3-5 hours a day.*

**to run a central air conditioning system for two hours**

*Range between a 1,200-watt and 3,500-watt system.*

$0.28-$0.81

$0.02-$0.06

**to watch two hours of TV**

*Range accounts for different types and sizes of TVs, from small CRT screens to large LCD/plasma screens.*

**to do one load of laundry**

*Assumes a 45-minute wash cycle at 225 watts and 1-hour dry cycle at 2,700watts. Range factors in $0.04-$0.68 cents for the water heater, depending on whether a cold or hot water wash is used.*

$0.38-$1.02

**to use a laptop computer for 8 hours, plugged in**

$0.02

$0.01

**to light a room for three hours with four 60-watt-equivalent LEDs**

**to light a room for three hours with four 60-watt-equivalent CFLs**

$0.02

<$0.01

**to recharge a smartphone**

**to keep a 6-foot inflatable lawn decoration on for 4 hours**

$0.03

Want to calculate the exact cost of each appliance you use in your home? Visit the Department of Energy's Appliance and Electronic Energy Calculator to learn more:

Energy.gov/energysaver/estimating-appliance-and-home-electronic-energy-use

**#PublicPower**


# ENERGIZE
## Your Spring Cleaning with Energy Tips

Park Hudson

***Spring is not only a season of rejuvenation for nature but also an opportunity to maximize energy savings. Here are some tips to help you make the most of the season:***


UNSPLASH.COM ©

### Maximize Natural Light:

Open up your curtains and blinds to let in natural sunlight. Take advantage of longer days to minimize the use of artificial lighting, brightening your space while reducing your dependence on electricity.

### Efficient Cleaning Habits:

While spring cleaning is a tradition, consider making it energy-efficient. Use cold water when washing clothes. Consider air-drying your clothes using a clothesline instead of relying on the energy-consuming dryer.

### Upgrade to Energy-Efficient Appliances:

Consider replacing old appliances with energy-efficient models. Modern appliances are designed to use less energy, ultimately saving you money on your utility bills. Look for the ENERGY STAR® label when shopping for new appliances.


BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM ©

### Smart Thermostat Optimization:

Adjust your thermostat settings for milder spring temperatures. Program your thermostat to reduce energy consumption when you're away or asleep. Investing in a smart thermostat that learns your preferences can optimize energy usage.

### Landscaping for Temperature Control:

Strategically plant trees and shrubs around your home to provide shade during warmer months. This natural shading can significantly reduce the need for air conditioning. Take care not to plant vegetation where it may interfere with utility lines. Additionally, maintain your HVAC system by cleaning or replacing filters regularly.


BIGSTOCKPHOTO.COM ©

### DIY Home Energy Audit:

Identify areas of energy waste by conducting a simple home energy audit. Check for drafts around windows and doors, and seal any gaps. Ensure your home is well-insulated to keep it at the desired temperature.

### Unplug and Power Down:

Be mindful of electronics and appliances that may not be in use. Unplug chargers, turn off lights in empty rooms, and power down electronic devices when not needed. Even in standby mode, these devices consume energy.

***Incorporating these energy-saving tips into your spring routine allows you to enjoy the benefits of reduced energy bills and make positive changes to your home. Let the season of renewal inspire habits that contribute to a more efficient living space.***

# SOLAR MYTHS

CITY OF BRYAN ©

In the pursuit of eco-friendly and cost-effective energy solutions, photovoltaic (PV) solar systems have emerged as a popular option for home and business owners. While these systems can make sense for some homeowners, there are some myths that exist regarding rooftop solar systems:

## Myth 1: ***"You Will Never Have to Pay Another Utility Bill"***

**Fact:** While it's true that solar panels can significantly reduce your reliance on the grid, the claim that you will never have to pay another utility bill is a misrepresentation. Photovoltaic systems can generate substantial energy, potentially allowing you to offset or eliminate electricity costs. However, factors such as energy consumption, system size, and local regulations can impact the extent of your savings. Predatory salesmen may exaggerate this benefit to upsell unsuspecting customers.

## Myth 2: ***"Solar Panels Guarantee Complete Energy Independence"***

**Fact:** Achieving complete energy independence solely through solar panels is an oversimplification. Photovoltaic systems are designed to augment your energy needs, but factors such as weather conditions and nighttime still necessitate a connection to the grid or an energy storage solution. Beware of sales pitches promising absolute autonomy from utility companies, most systems are designed to interact with the grid, not be independent of it.

## Myth 3: ***"Solar Panels Pay for Themselves in a Year"***

**Fact:** While solar panels can yield long-term savings, the claim that they pay for themselves in a short time frame is misleading. The return on investment for a photovoltaic system typically spans several years or decades, depending on factors like installation costs, energy savings, and available incentives. Beware of aggressive sales tactics that downplay a realistic payback period.

## Myth 4: ***"Government Rebates Cover the Entire Cost of Installation"***

**Fact:** Government incentives, tax credits, and rebates can reduce the upfront costs of installing a solar system. However, the assertion that these incentives cover the entire installation cost may be deceptive. Predatory salesmen might overstate the financial benefits to create a sense of urgency, pressuring consumers into hasty decisions. It's crucial to carefully review and understand the terms of any incentives offered.

As consumers increasingly explore photovoltaic solar systems, it's important to discern between genuine benefits and misleading claims or sales tactics. While solar energy presents a viable and sustainable option, understanding the realistic expectations and potential pitfalls will empower consumers to make informed decisions. If you have questions about PV solar systems, reach out to our Energy Services team at **solar@btutilities.com** or **979-821-5715**.

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF BRYAN

# Need a summer job but don't know where to start?

*Get certified through the City of Bryan's Parks and Recreation Department to become a lifeguard or babysitter!*

## AMERICAN RED CROSS CERTIFICATION COURSES

### Lifeguard Certification

Through videos, group discussions, and hands-on practice, you will learn patron rescue, surveillance skills, first aid, and CPR/AED. Successful participants receive CPR/AED professional rescuer and lifeguarding certifications valid for two years.

**Ages: 15+**

**Location: Bryan Aquatic Center**

**Fee: $150 Resident**
**$165 Non-Resident**

**Variety of sessions from March – May!**

### Babysitting Certification

Learn basic care for infants and children, fundamental first aid, understand child behavior, plan age-appropriate activities, and implement emergency protocols. Successful participants receive a babysitter certification valid for two years. Registration ends Friday, March 22.

**Ages: 11 – 15**

**Location: Neal Recreation Center**

**Fee: $60 Resident / $70 Non-Resident**

| SESSION | DATE | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| Session 1 | April 6 | 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. |
| Session 2 | April 13 | 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. |

*Learn more and reserve your spot today:* **bryantx.gov/parks • 979.209.5528**

CITY OF BRYAN ©

CITY OF BRYAN
*The Good Life, Texas Style.™*

## JOIN OUR TEAM THIS SUMMER!

We're hiring lifeguards and cashiers for our pools, instructors for swim lessons, and camp counselors.

Enjoy flexible schedules and competitive pay. Ages 16+ can apply.

Learn more and apply:

**bryantxjobs.com • 979.209.5060**

FREE FAMILY FUN


# Blue Bunny Egg Hunt

## Saturday, March 23

**9 – 11 a.m.**

**Bryan Regional Athletic Complex**

Free activities include an egg hunt for children, Bryan Police Department vehicle displays, face painting, train rides, inflatables, photos with the Easter Bunny, and the movie "Hop" will be showing.

**Egg Hunt Schedule:**

| Time | Age Group |
|---|---|
| 9:30 a.m. | 0-3 years old |
| 9:45 a.m. | 4-6 years old |
| 10 a.m. | 7-9 years old |

PARKS & RECREATION
CITY OF BRYAN

bryantx.gov/parks • 979.209.5528


FREE!

CITY OF BRYAN
OPEN HOUSE
*Your keys to the city.*

## Thursday, April 4

**11 a.m. – 1 p.m.**

**Legends Event Center**

## Want to know what all the City of Bryan has to offer?

***Join us at our come-and-go event to learn about:***

- **Departments**
- **Services**
- **Events**
- **Programs**
- **Jobs**
- **Volunteer opportunities**
- **And more**

**bryantx.gov • 979.209.5175**