

# Facts about America's Electric Co-ops

## 42 Million Americans Plugged Into Electric Co-ops

America's 900 distribution co-ops provide electricity to 42 million Americans, 12 percent of the U.S. population. Investor-owned utilities (IOUs), which are for-profit companies, serve 73 percent of the U.S. population, while publicly-owned utilities or municipals (Munis) serve the remaining 15 percent.

It is important to note that a large portion of co-op members live in low density, hard-to-serve areas. While they serve slightly more than one in 10 Americans, co-ops own more than 40 percent of the miles of electric distribution lines, covering three-quarters of the country's landmass. This low density of consumers per mile of line is one of the major reasons why co-op costs, and sometimes rates, are higher than those of other types of electric utilities.

