



HOT WATTS

Pole Inspections for 2019

CHEC has contracted with Osmose Utilities Service, Inc. to inspect and treat power poles owned by CHEC in Haskell and Pittsburg County. The project will begin in March and will continue approximately until the fall. Crews will be working from Highway 9 to Highway 31 and from Highway 2 to Highway 71.

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Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



If you find your account number hidden in this issue of the *Hot Watts*, you'll receive a \$25 credit on your electric bill.



What is a watt (W)?

The standard unit of electric power, equal to 1/746 horsepower or 1 Joule (the amount of work required to produce one watt of power) per second. People convert energy – measured in barrels of oil, tons of coal, and cubic feet of natural gas, for example – into power, tabulated in watts or horse power.

What is a kilowatt (kW)?

The basic unit of electric demand, equal to 1,000 W. A measure of both a utility's capacity and a consumer's demand or load.

What is a kilowatt hour (kWh)?

A unit of energy or work equal to 1,000 Wh. The basic measure of electric energy use. A 100-W light bulb burning for 10 hours uses 1 kWh.

What is the PCA charge on my electric bill?

The Power Cost Adjustment (PCA) is an amount in \$/kWh applied to a member's monthly kWh consumption to account for changes in the cost of wholesale power purchases from CHEC's power supplier that are above or below the power cost recovered in the base rates to the member. The PCA passes on the difference between the actual cost of wholesale power each month and the base cost used in determining rate schedules. The PCA factor will allow the cooperative to more efficiently track both increases and reduction in the wholesale cost of power. The PCA factor for future periods will be determined based on the changes in wholesale power cost.

What is a pay-as-you-go (pre-paid) account?

A pre-paid account allows you to purchase electricity before you use it. This option allows you to control your budget and pay how much you want, when you want. There are no security deposits or late fees. Instead of a monthly billing statement, your usage and balance is calculated daily. You can track your usage through our SmartHub app or online at www.cooksonhills.com. Pre-paid electric does not cost more or less than a monthly billed account. All residential accounts at CHEC are billed at the same rate.

Do pre-paid accounts pay the same rates as regular monthly billed residential accounts?

Yes, all residential accounts are billed at the same rates. March through November usage is billed at \$0.08720 per kWh plus the PCA and the monthly service availability fee. December through February usage is billed at \$0.08720 per kWh for the first 800 kWh and \$0.07720 per kWh for usage over 800 kWh plus the PCA and the monthly service availability fee.

What is the monthly service availability fee?

The monthly service availability fee is \$35 per month for all residential accounts. This charge is the cost of providing service to our members.

Do pre-paid accounts have to pay the monthly service availability fee?

Yes, pre-paid accounts pay the same \$35 monthly service availability fee. The fee is \$1.17 per day for pre-paid accounts. [2097602]

My neighbor live in a similar size house. Why is my electric bill always higher than my neighbor's bill?

Many factors impact the amount of energy used in a home, so it is very difficult to make direct comparisons between two different households. Below are three major factors when considering electricity use.

▶ **Heating and cooling account for more than 50 percent of a home's electricity use.**

A high-efficiency electric heat pump will use half or even less energy to heat or cool the same amount of space compared to an electric furnace or older-model inefficient heat pump. And, of course, many homes are heated with natural gas or propane, although electricity is still used for the furnace fans. Electric space heaters can also have an impact on increasing your electric use. Do not forget all those other electricity-users (TV, lights, computers, microwaves, etc.).

▶ **How well is your home weatherized?**

Attic insulations, insulated doors and windows, and eliminating outside air infiltration are the most cost-effective ways to improve the energy efficiency of any structure.

▶ **How many people live in your home?**

The number of occupants and their ages can also have a dramatic impact on the amount of energy used. Hot Water use for showers and baths as well as for laundry and dishwashing needs is another major factor of energy use.

If you have any questions please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211. We would be more than happy to assist you.

News & Notes

- Beginning with March billing, residential accounts switch from winter rates to summer rates. Summer rates will remain in effect through November. During this time all energy usage is billed at \$0.08720 per kWh. If you have questions about rates, please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.
- Daylight Savings Time begins on Sunday, March 10, 2019. Don't forget to set your clock forward one hour.
- If you participated in CHEC's load management program in the late 90's to early 2000's and still have a load management device connected to your hot water heater, please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211. These devices have not been in use for many years and CHEC would like to remove this equipment from your water heater.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Spring is nearly here! Now is the perfect time to test your A/C and ensure it's ready for summer. Remember to check the evaporator coil, which should be cleaned annually for optimal efficiency.

Source: energy.gov

New Meters

CHEC is excited to announce an enhancement to our metering system. Our current metering system is nearing the end of its estimated useful life. This project will replace our existing system with more modern equipment, allowing us to offer more options for you in the future. The project is expected to be completed over the next four years. All meters will be changed out by our linemen and servicemen of CHEC, who will be in a CHEC marked vehicle. If you have any questions, please contact us at 800-328-2368, and as always, we will be happy to assist you.

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Osmose crews will inspect and test poles making sure they have the proper strength requirements. The poles that pass all strength requirements will be treated to prevent future decay. Those that do not have the proper strength requirements will be replaced. The process will involve excavating around the poles by inspection crews. Crews will need access to all poles that have been identified as needing inspection.



Pole maintenance can save money by reducing unnecessary replacement costs and by adding many additional years of service life to poles. This project will greatly enhance the reliability of CHEC's power system.

Osmose's vehicles will be identified by an Osmose logo on the door of the vehicle as well as a magnetic placard of CHEC's logo. They will also carry a letter identifying them as working on behalf of CHEC. Any questions regarding the project should be directed to Jason Fontaine, Director of Engineering, at 800-328-2368.

Three Easy DIY Projects to Save Energy

Winter weather can have a big impact on your energy bills, hitting your pockets a little harder than you would have liked. Now that spring is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to tackle a few DIY efficiency projects for your home. The good news: You don't have to be an energy expert to do this!

There are several easy ways to save energy, but if you're willing to take a hands-on approach, here are three projects you can do now to start saving.

Make the Most of Your Water Heater.

Let's start with one of the easiest projects: insulating your water heater. Insulating a water heater that's warm to the touch can save 7 to 16 percent annually on your water heating bills. It should also be noted that if your water heater is new, it is likely already insulated. But if your water heater is warm to the touch, it needs additional insulation.

You can purchase a pre-cut jacket or blanket for about \$20. You'll also need two people for this project. Before you start, turn off the water heater. Wrap the blanket around the water heater and tape it to temporarily keep it in place. If necessary, use a marker to note the areas where the controls are so you can cut them out. Once the blanket is positioned correctly tape it permanently in place, then turn the water heater back on. If you have an electric water heater, do not set the thermostat above 130 degrees, which can cause overheating.

Seal Air Leaks with Caulk.

The average American family spends \$2,000 annually on energy bills, but unfortunately, much of that money is wasted through air leaks in the home. Applying caulk around windows, doors, electrical wiring and plumbing can save energy and money. There are many different types of caulking compounds

available, but the most popular choice is silicone. Silicone caulk is waterproof, flexible and won't shrink or crack.

Before applying new caulk, clean and remove any old caulk or paint with a putty knife, screwdriver, brush or solvent. The area should be dry before you apply the new caulk.

Apply the caulk in one continuous stream, and make sure it sticks to both sides of the crack or seam. Afterwards, use a putty knife to smooth out the caulk, then wipe the surface with a dry cloth.

Weather Strip Exterior Doors.

One of the best ways to seal air leaks is to weather strip exterior doors, which can keep out drafts and help you control energy costs. Weather stripping materials vary, but you can ask your local hardware or home store for assistance if you're unsure about the supplies you need.

When choosing weather stripping materials, make sure it can withstand temperature changes, friction and the general "wear and tear" for the location of the door. Keep in mind, you will need separate materials for the door sweep (at the bottom of the door) and the top and sides.

Before applying the new weather stripping, clean the moulding with water and soap, then let the area dry completely. Measure each side of the door, then cut the weather stripping to fit each section. Make sure the weather stripping fits snugly against both surfaces so it compresses when the door is closed.

By completing these simple efficiency projects, you can save energy (and money!) while increasing the comfort level of your home. And you can impress your family and friends with your savvy energy-saving skills.