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September 2010

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency
Tip of the Month

Use the moisture sensor feature on your clothes dryer if it has one. This option shuts down the dryer when clothes are dry. In addition, clean the lint filter after each load. This improves air circulation and increases the dryer's efficiency.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations

Diana Ridenour of Eufaula is our online survey winner!



Cash in by attending Annual Meeting

- Registered members will receive a \$20 electric credit, which will be applied to next month's bill.

When you signed up as a customer of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, you automatically became a member of the cooperative. As a member you have the opportunity to attend Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 62nd Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium on September 18, 2010. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end at 11:00 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m., prize drawings will follow.

There will be entertainment by "The Ritters" who are back by popular demand. Registered members will receive a \$20 electric credit, which will be applied to next month's bill. To receive this credit your name must be on the membership account and you must be present at the Annual Meeting. Only one \$20 electric credit will be applied to each membership account.

There will be prize drawings for registered members and registered members' children (ages 5 thru 16). Please check with your local Cookson Hills office to verify that your name is on your account. Winners must be present to receive prizes, no exceptions. Winners must have their Annual Meeting notice and photo ID to claim prizes. Children must be accompanied by a registered parent or guardian.

One representative from each membership will receive a complimentary energy bag, while supplies last. Cookson Hills will be providing water, soft drinks and snacks.

Do not forget to bring your Annual Meeting notice you received in the mail to the Annual Meeting.



2010 Annual Meeting location, Sallisaw High School Gymnasium



Photos by: Larry Mattes

Hot Watts

is published monthly by **Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.** *Hot Watts* informs members in parts of seven Eastern Oklahoma counties about Cookson Hills' programs and issues. Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative continually strives to provide quality electrical service at a reasonable cost for its members.

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Cookson Hills welcomes members to submit photos and articles which will be subject to Cookson Hills editing. Any submissions must be received before the 12th of the month prior to the publication date.

If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

Landscaping with Energy Efficiency in Mind

You have upgraded your appliances, insulation and lighting to help lower your monthly electric bill. What else can you do? If you have a yard with landscaping options, the right combination of plants and trees can discover hidden energy savings.

The U.S. Department of Energy claims landscaping with energy efficiency in mind, on average, could save enough energy to recover your investment in less than eight years. There are several ways to think about planting for energy savings: **Climate**

Climate determines the direction your landscaping planning should take. The United States is divided into four different types of regions: temperate, hot-arid, hot-humid, and cool.

Folks living in the temperate band across the Northwest, Midwest, and Northeast parts of the nation should maximize the warmth of winter sun. Likewise, summer shade should be prized. Winter winds should be deflected from buildings, while summer breezes need to be brought toward a home.

In hot-arid regions of the Southwest, shade over roofs, walls, and windows is a must. Homeowners without air conditioning should encourage wind flow through

the house while those with air conditioning should try to block or deflect winds.

Simple Shading

You might be protected from the hot summer sun in your home, but your electric bill is not. Solar heat absorbed through windows and your roof causes your air conditioner to work harder.

Shading a home with trees could drop the surrounding air temperature by as much as 9 degrees Fahrenheit. It gets better closer to the ground, since cool air sinks down, the air under trees may be up to 25 degrees cooler than the air over the driveway.

Different trees serve unique purposes. To block summer solar heat but let the winter sun through, use deciduous trees. Evergreen trees and shrubs are ideal to provide continuous shade and block heavy winds.

Do not forget about shrubs and ground cover plants. These short but sturdy shade-givers reduce heat radiation, cooling air before it reaches your home's walls and windows. If you have an air conditioner, shading the unit can increase its efficiency by as much as 10 percent.



Line Upgrades

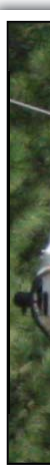
Since the Cooperative's inception in 1945, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) has invested in affordable and reliable electric service for the members of the Cooperative. That mindset continues today with system upgrades throughout the service territory.

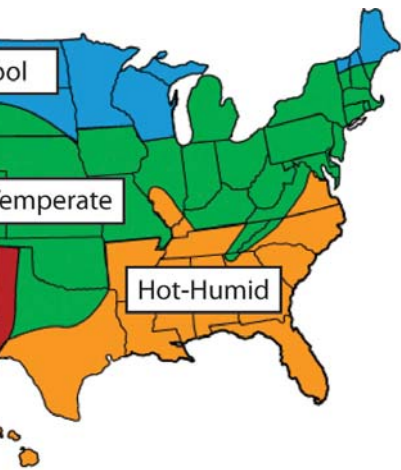
CHEC has contracted with Gordon Construction out of Stigler to complete several of these projects. Two of these system upgrades, the first being east of Keota and the other south of McKey, consisted of converting single-phase line

to three-phase line. These two projects involved setting over 90 new poles of a larger class and height. The span lengths between poles have been shortened and the conductor size has been increased to accommodate voltage requirements for future growth.

These system improvement projects are expensive and time-consuming, but are done with our members' best interests in mind - for reliability and growth of the Cooperative.

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Windbreaks

Shrubs and trees create windbreaks—essentially walls to keep the wind away from a home. Why is that important? Wind speed lowers outside temperatures. A windbreak reduces wind speed nearby, saving your home on higher heating costs.

It is best to block wind with a combination of trees and shrubs with low crowns, foliage which grows close to ground. Evergreens are ideal, and when combined with a wall or fence these windbreaks can deflect or even block wind over a home.

Remember, your landscaping plan depends on your climate and how your home is situated. Find out more about your climate, microclimates, planting dos and don'ts, and windbreaks at www.energysavers.gov. To learn more ways to save energy around your home, visit www.TogetherweSave.com.

Cookson Hills Pays Taxes to Local Schools

Classes have started for many area schools and students are back in the classrooms. Education is important for students and Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) believes strongly in supporting local school districts within its service territory.

People may believe that CHEC does not pay taxes because they are a non-profit organization. CHEC does indeed pay a Gross Receipts Tax on the sale of electricity. The tax is equal to 2% of the total gross receipts on the sale of electricity.

Ninety-five percent of the tax paid is distributed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to area schools. Each school receives an amount determined by the miles of line in its district. The chart, to the right of this page, shows distributions and a breakdown of the 2009 taxes paid per school district.

In 2009, CHEC paid \$623,775.80 on 2811.31 miles of line to 23 school districts in its seven county territory.

School District	Miles of Line	Taxes paid in 2009
Belfonte	55.88	\$11,815.03
Bokoshe	0.73	\$155.62
Brushy	64.55	\$13,616.70
Central	123.39	\$31,759.29
Gans	116.35	\$24,588.28
Gore	229.23	\$42,658.05
Keota	218.50	\$46,122.95
Kinta	164.11	\$34,603.57
Liberty	43.29	\$9,152.89
Marble City	60.75	\$12,782.02
McCurtain	115.89	\$24,471.83
Moffett	2.33	\$493.32
Muldrow	212.95	\$44,899.72
Porum	133.62	\$28,188.20
Quinton	59.29	\$12,516.80
Roland	72.52	\$15,175.64
Sallisaw	277.00	\$58,188.52
Stigler	383.48	\$80,597.95
Vian	282.61	\$59,710.28
Warner	59.29	\$12,511.54
Webbers Falls	83.29	\$17,548.34
Whitefield	51.07	\$10,795.95
Wilburton	1.11	\$234.51
State's Portion		\$31,188.80
TOTAL	2811.31	\$623,775.80



Photos by: Larry Mattes



Well pump problems: a hidden energy cost

A leaky faucet or toilet can be more expensive in a house that gets water from a well instead of a utility company. That is because a leak can cause the well to run almost continuously, wasting water and energy with every drip.

Repairing leaks is not the only way to keep your pump in top shape. Regular maintenance not only can help your pump operate more efficiently, it can help extend the life of your equipment. A service technician should inspect your pump to see if it has fallen victim to either of these two major energy wasters:



The pressure tank is waterlogged. If it is, the pressure sensor inside the tank becomes overactive, causing the pump to start and stop continuously. The pump uses the most energy when it is starting up, such unnecessary cycling can put a drain on your energy bill.



The pump is too large. Many homes have three to four horsepower pumps, when they really need only one to two horsepower pumps. A properly sized pump can save about 100 kilowatt-hours of electricity a year.

The Hot Watts Q&A

Question: If my service is disconnected for non-payment, do I have to pay a reconnect fee?

Answer: If your service is disconnected for non-payment, there will be a disconnect fee of \$75.00. Reconnection of disconnected meters during regular business hours will consist of a \$75.00 fee. Reconnection of a disconnected meter after normal business hours will consist of a \$250.00 fee. If the account is not secured by a deposit of a sufficient size the amount of the deposit required on the account may be increased. Please note, that disconnect and reconnect fees must be paid in addition to any past due amounts.

Stay Cool *with* Energy Star Rebates



Helping you use less energy and save money is important to Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. That is why we have our energy efficiency rebate programs specifically for you the members. We understand that by spending less on your energy costs you can save money for the important things in life.

Members can receive a \$50 rebate on the purchase of a high-efficiency ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioner.

ENERGY STAR qualified room air conditioners exceed minimum federal standards by 10% compared to standard models. It is possible to save \$20 to \$300 over the lifetime of the unit, through high performance features like:

- * High-efficiency fan motors – use less energy to circulate the air and produce less noise.
- * Advanced compressors – draw in more heat from the air into the coils than conventional models, saving the energy required to compress refrigerant.
- * Timers – included in many models so that units only run when needed.

The rebate program includes:

Clothes Washer.....	\$100
Dishwasher.....	\$50
Room Air Conditioner.....	\$50
Water Heater.....	\$50
Dual Fuel Heat Pump.....	\$150 per ton
Ground Source Heat Pump	