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August 2011

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

One of the easiest ways to make your home more energy efficient is to add insulation in the attic. To see if you need insulation, look across an uncovered attic floor. If the insulation is level with or below the floor joists, you probably need to add more.

Source: Energy Star

Congratulations

Amy Wisley is our online survey winner!



District Meetings Scheduled for August

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will hold district meetings during August for those members who live in District 5 and District 7. Kenneth "Chick" Kelley currently serves as the trustee representing District 5. District 7 currently has an open seat.

Your cooperative holds district meetings in order for you to elect your representatives to the Cookson Hills Board of Trustees. These local meetings are essential to Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. Attending these meetings gives you, as a cooperative member, the opportunity to choose who will represent you on your cooperative Board of Trustees.

A seven member Board of Trustees governs Cookson Hills, which divides its service area into seven districts with one trustee representing each district for a three-year term. The board establishes policies and monitors cooperative finances and procedures. The board has set the following dates and times for the 2011 district meetings:

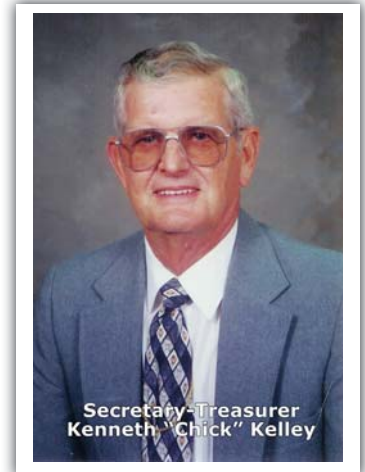
District 5 meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Aug. 29, 2011 at the Cookson Hills headquarters facility in Stigler, OK; District 7 meeting will be held at 7:00 p.m.

on Aug. 8, 2011, at the Porum Schools Event Center in Porum, OK.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will send notices to cooperative members in each of these districts.

Please be sure to read your district meeting notification carefully. If you have questions

about the district meetings, please feel free to call 918-967-4614 or 800-328-2368.



Secretary-Treasurer
Kenneth "Chick" Kelley

District Meeting Dates

District 7.....August 8, 2011 at 7:00 p.m.
Meeting held at Porum Schools Event Center in Porum, OK.

District 5.....August 29, 2011 at 6:00 p.m.
Meeting held at Cookson Hills headquarters facility in Stigler, OK.

Annual Meeting Date has been changed to October 1st

We've had warm temperatures at the last several Annual Meetings held in September. Therefore, the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Board of Trustees has made the decision to move the Annual Meeting to the first Saturday in October this year. The 63rd Annual Meeting will be held on October 1st at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium.

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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Larry Mattes - Editor

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

Operation Round-Up Grants Still Available

Local non-profit service organizations and qualified individuals have two more opportunities this year to receive a grant from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) Operation Round-Up. These grants do not fund individual's electric bills or the organization's operating costs.

The Cookson Hills Foundation Board meets quarterly each year to view applications and award grants. There are still two more meetings for the Operation Round-Up grant candidates this year. The deadline to have applications submitted to CHEC are August 10th, third quarter meeting and November 10th, fourth quarter meeting. The remaining Operation Round-Up meetings are tentatively scheduled for September 13th and December 6th, respectively.

Individuals, families, and organizations can download an application from our website, www.cooksonhills.com or call 918-967-4614 to request an application.

Funding for Operation Round-Up grants come solely from members who allow CHEC to round up their bill each month to the next dollar.

"We would like to thank all our members who participate in the Operation Round-Up program," said Amy Smith, Operation Round-Up Coordinator. "Because of their generosity, many organizations and individuals in their own communities are helped each year."

This year the Operation Round-Up Board has already awarded grants totaling \$15,909.62 to qualified individuals and community organizations throughout CHEC's service area.



Big TV's are Big Energy Hogs



So the Federal Trade Commission is requiring TV manufacturers to post a yellow-and-black Energy Guide label on every new TV. The removable label estimates how much you will pay in energy costs to operate the TV for a year and compares that cost with other models with similar-size screens.

You have seen the label before; the FTC has long required it on appliances like washing machines and refrigerators.

How much energy a TV uses varies widely depending on the brand, the size, and whether it is a plasma or LCD TV.

Another label to look for when you shop for a new TV: The Energy Star label. This one is not required, but TVs that qualify to display it use about 40 percent less energy than others.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

The next TV you buy will probably be bigger than the last. The bigger the TV, the more energy it uses.

In fact, the U.S. Department of Energy estimates that high-resolution, direct-view (not rear-projection) TVs use as much electricity in a year as a refrigerator.

Take the Ups and Downs out of your Bill

Dreading those high bills you receive once or twice a year, due to extreme heat or cold weather? Wouldn't it be nice if your electric bills were more predictable? We may have the perfect solution for you!

The Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Average Monthly Billing Plan is designed to average members' monthly payments and level out those unusually high bills that occur during months of high electricity use, typically during the summer and winter months. With Average Monthly Billing, you will know approximately what to expect on your electric bill each month.

With our Average Monthly Billing Plan, your current electric usage is added to your previous 11 months usage. The total is then divided by 12. This helps members to budget

their bills by approximately paying the same amount each month. It's especially valuable to members on a budget or limited income.

There is no charge to participate in this program. Members are eligible if they have at least one year of billing history, no more than two late payments in the previous twelve months, and no returned payments.

For more information on how to sign up for Average Monthly Billing, contact Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative at 918-967-4614 or toll free at 800-328-2368.



istockphoto

Youth Tour Provides Educational Trip

Four local students were among more than 1,500 high school students visiting Washington, D.C. in June for the 2011 Washington Youth Tour, sponsored by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) along with hundreds of other electric cooperatives across Oklahoma and the country. Madison Cotherman from Gore High School, daughter of John and Julie Cotherman; Chance Fletcher from Gans High School, son of Bud and Kelly Fletcher; Aubrey Hale of Roland High School, son of Robert and Lola Hale; and Hunter Hume from Webbers Falls High School, son of Dudley and Brenda Hume, joined 63 other Oklahoma students for this great educational event.

"CHEC is proud to offer these extraordinary students the opportunity to visit Washington, D.C.," said Kristie Cash, CHEC Youth Tour Coordinator. "The Youth Tour provides a great way for our future leaders to learn about government and electric cooperatives. By investing in these students, we believe we are investing in the future of our communities."

CHEC has sponsored the Washington Youth Tour for more than 40 years. The trip is designed to educate students about our nation's capital, the sacrifices made for our freedom and the value of the cooperative way of business. The students return home with a greater appreciation of our nation's leaders, a respect for the



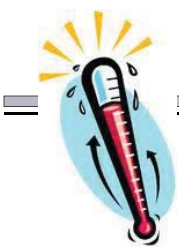
Photo by: Kristie Cash

Left to right: Hunter Hume, Aubrey Hale, Chance Fletcher and Madison Cotherman, 2011 Cookson Hills Electric Youth Tour Delegates.

beauty of Washington, D.C., and friendships that will last a lifetime.

"In my opinion, the most exciting part of the trip was visiting the Smithsonian Museum and speaking with our congressmen," said Madison Cotherman.

Applications for the 2012 Youth Tour will be available in January 2012 on CHEC's website at www.cooksonhills.com, at the CHEC office, or by calling (918) 967-4614.



Summer Heat

Keep the sun out and stay cool

One of the best ways to keep your house cooler during the summer is to keep the sun and the heat outdoors. You will be able to inch the thermostat up a few degrees, so you could see a reduction in your cooling bill this summer. In addition, your family will feel more comfortable. Here are a few tips:

1 Replace your window curtains with a style that has a white backing on the window side, and then close them during the day. The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) says the heat-deflecting white can reduce the amount of heat that gets into the house by up to 45 percent.

2 Hang window awnings on south, west and east facing windows. DOE says you can reduce solar heat gain on the hottest days by up to 65 percent on south facing windows and 77 percent on west facing windows by covering them with awnings.

3 Try sun screens. These are different from insect screens. Sometimes called solar shades, they are made from see-through mesh that is tight enough to block a lot of heat and UV rays, but transparent enough that you can see through them, so they do not block your view.

4 Plant shade trees near windows that get the most sunlight during the summer. A young tree will not keep you cool this year, but as it grows, it will keep more sun out 189001 and allow your home to stay cooler all day.

5 Caulk around windows and doors to keep your air-conditioned air in the house and the hot air out. Also look for and patch other holes in indoor walls that are on the perimeter of the house, especially around electrical, cable and phone outlets.

6 The most common sources of internal heat gain are; appliances, electronic devices, and lighting. Be aware from where the heat is coming. Do not put lamps, televisions or other heat-generating appliances next to your air-conditioning thermostat. The heat they produce will make your air conditioning think your house is warmer than it really is, and your system will run harder than it needs to.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Statement of Non-discrimination

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is the recipient of federal financial assistance from the Rural Utilities Service, an agency of the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and is subject to the provisions of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as amended, Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended, the Age Discrimination Act of 1975, as amended and the rules and regulations of the U.S. Department of Agriculture which provide that no person in the United States on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, or disability shall be excluded from participation in, admission or access to, denied the benefits of, or otherwise be subjected to discrimination under any of this organization's programs or activities.

The person responsible for coordinating this organization's non-discrimination compliance efforts is Kendall Beck, General Manager. Any individual, or specific class of individuals, who feels that this organization has subjected them to discrimination may obtain further information about the statutes and regulations listed above from, and/or file a written complaint with this organization; or the Secretary, U.S. Department Agriculture, Washington D.C. 20250; or the Administrator, Rural Utilities Service, Washington, D.C. 20250. Complaints must be filed within 180 days after the alleged discrimination. Confidentiality will be maintained to the extent possible.



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