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September 2011

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Is your washing machine more than 10 years old? According to the U.S. Department of Energy, families can cut related energy costs by more than a third, and water costs by more than half, by purchasing a clothes washer with an ENERGY STAR label. Choose a front-load or redesigned top-load model.

Sources: Electric Power Research Institute

### Congratulations

Dawn Toney is our online survey winner!



## Cookson Hills Electric Annual Meeting Set for October 1st

■ *Registered members will receive a \$20 electric credit.*

When you signed up for electric service with 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 63rd Annual Meeting.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium on **October 1, 2011**. Registration will begin at 10:00 a.m. and will end promptly at 11:00 a.m. The business meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m. with prize drawings after the meeting.

There will be live entertainment by "The Ritters" as well as an update on the cooperative. Registered members in attendance will receive a \$20 electric credit, which will be reflected on November billing statements. 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, as well as 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



CHEC employees David Bumpers and Marty Huff handing out Annual Meeting programs.

Photo by: Larry Mattes

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 gift bag, while supplies last. Cookson Hills will be providing water, soft drinks and snacks.

## Annual Meeting Notice to be Mailed by Mid-September

Annual Meetings are enjoyable with entertainment and prizes. Do not forget to bring your Annual Meeting notice you received in the mail to the Annual Meeting along with a photo ID to claim prizes.

# Insulating Your Attic: More Is Better



Touchstone Energy Photo

mer and warmer in winter, and it will keep more money in your wallet. As **TogetherWeSave.com** has shown, adding insulation to your attic can save you up to \$240 per year.

Before adding insulation to your attic, determine how much insulation is already installed, what kind it is, and how thick it is. Next, you will need to know the R-value, which indicates the insulation's resistance to heat, of existing attic insulation. The higher the R-value, the greater the insulating effectiveness. Once you know the R-value, you can determine how much insulation to add by using the U.S. Department of Energy's Zip Code Insulation Program.

Now you are ready to decide what kind of insulation to install: loose-fill or blanket (batt and roll) insulation.

Loose-fill insulation consists of small particles of fiber, foam, or other materials. Blanket insulation, the most common and widely available type of insulation, comes in the form of batts and rolls made from mineral wool, plastic fibers, and natural fibers. Loose-fill insulation is usually less expensive to install than batt insulation. And when installed properly, loose-fill insulation can provide better coverage.

For other tips on how to save energy, and money, visit **www.energysavers.gov** or Touchstone Energy Cooperatives energy-saving **www.TogetherWeSave.com**.

Is there enough insulation in your attic? By adding insulation, you can improve your home's energy efficiency and save money. Here is a tip from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative that can help reduce your energy consumption, and your electric bills.

With adequate attic insulation, your home's heating and cooling system will operate more efficiently. It will keep you cooler in the sum-

## Complete our member survey online

- You will be entered for a chance to win a \$10 electric credit

Help Us Serve You Better! We have designed our member survey so it will take you no more than five minutes to complete. We will use this information to help improve our services to you. The information will be used only by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, and will not be sold or distributed to other firms. Log on to **www.cooksonhills.com** and click the top link that says (complete our member survey) and you will be automatically entered for a chance to win a \$10.00 electric credit! This also helps us update the information we have on file.

### 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**



# Cookson Hills Electric Pays Taxes to Benefit 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 2010-2011 taxes paid per school district.

For the 2010-2011 fiscal year, CHEC paid \$601,163.13 on 2,827.28 miles of line to 23 school districts in its seven county territory.

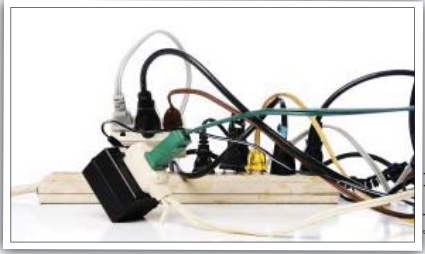


## Send Students to College with all the Essentials

■ *Including electrical safety knowledge!*

Sending a child off to college can be a stressful time for parents, making sure their student has all the essentials to help prepare for a bright future. While shopping for the typical supplies to make new surroundings comfortable, give those students a bit of advice: teach them about electrical safety and encourage them to share it with others. In its most recent report, the National Fire Protection Association estimates that US fire departments respond to an average of 3,570 fires in dormitories, fraternities and sororities houses, as well as barracks each year. Safety steps to prevent and reduce the risk of electrical fires in student housing include:

- Avoid overloading extension cords, power strips, or outlets.
- Use extension cords only on a temporary basis; they are not intended as permanent solutions.
- Use power strips with an over-current protector that will shut off power automatically if there is too much current being drawn.
- Never tack or nail an electrical



cord to any surface, or run cords across traffic paths or under rugs where they can be trampled or damaged.

A fire escape plan is essential for every student. Whether apartment or dorm residents, make sure they know evacuation procedures and emergency exit locations in the event of a fire. Emphasize to students that smoke detectors should never be disabled, nor should fire alarms ever be ignored or taken casually as a drill. If a fire alarm sounds, residents should calmly and quickly follow practiced procedures and immediately exit the building. Apartment and dorm doors should be closed behind to prevent the spread of fire.

2010-2011 Fiscal Year		
School District	Miles of Line	Taxes Paid
Belfonte	55.88	\$11,326.30
Bokoshe	0.73	\$149.17
Brushy	64.80	\$13,103.97
Central	123.64	\$33,233.72
Gans	116.45	\$23,591.42
Gore	230.02	\$38,323.65
Keota	219.64	\$44,380.72
Kinta	165.36	\$33,364.05
Liberty	43.29	\$8,774.28
Marble City	61.25	\$12,354.33
McCurtain	116.39	\$23,530.24
Moffett	2.33	\$472.93
Muldrow	214.10	\$43,256.61
Porum	134.12	\$27,123.27
Quinton	59.34	\$12,021.32
Roland	74.87	\$14,840.73
Sallisaw	279.75	\$56,367.49
Stigler	387.23	\$78,028.93
Vian	283.11	\$57,323.31
Warner	59.49	\$12,034.42
Webbers Falls	83.79	\$16,923.48
Whitefield	51.12	\$10,355.86
Wilburton	1.11	\$224.78
<b>State's Portion</b>		<b>\$30,058.15</b>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2,827.28</b>	<b>\$601,163.13</b>



# What Are My Lighting Options?

Starting in 2012, light bulbs must be more energy efficient.

The three most common bulb options consumers will find on store shelves are:



## Halogen incandescents

**Energy Savings:**\* 25 percent  
**Lifespan:**\* Three times longer  
**Annual Energy Cost:** \$3.50



## Compact Fluorescent Lamps (CFLs)

**Energy Savings:**\* 75 percent  
**Lifespan:**\* 10 times longer  
**Annual Energy Cost:** \$1.20



## Light-emitting diodes (LEDs)

**Energy Savings:**\* 75-80 percent  
**Lifespan:**\* 25 times longer  
**Annual Energy Cost:** \$1

\* As compared to traditional incandescent bulbs

Learn more at [energysavers.gov/lighting](http://energysavers.gov/lighting)

# Dispelling Common CFL Myths

## ■ You CAN Dim Efficient Lights

U.S. retailers will soon begin switching out traditional incandescent light bulbs with more efficient options because of new regulations under the federal Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are the most widely available technology 52003 that meets the law's provisions.

As consumers rely more heavily on CFLs, they will encounter misconceptions, myths that the Electric Power Research Institute (EPRI), a non-profit research consortium made up of electric utilities, including electric cooperatives, wants to dispel.

**Myth #1. CFLs cannot be used in 3-way fixtures.** Several manufacturers have developed 3-way CFLs that provide performance equivalent to traditional 3-way incandescent lamps and also operate in standard 3-way sockets.

**Myth #2. Dimmable CFLs do not work with standard line dimmers.** While dimmable CFLs are available today, not all dimmable CFLs are compatible with every dimmer. Read the package before purchasing to determine if the CFL dims.

**Myth #3. Dimmable CFLs are hard to find.** Dimmable CFLs are becoming more widely available as incandescent bulbs are phased out, though in smaller inventories than traditional non-dimmable CFLs. Retailers follow lighting trends and know that dimmability will drive consumer choice. Dimmable CFLs will capture a growing share of the market and bring new options, such as incorporating the dimming control directly in the CFL base

**Myth #3. CFLs do not last as**



Photo Courtesy: Grey Stone Power

**long as advertised.** Installing CFLs in recessed can fixtures not rated for its use will likely shorten the lamp's life. The life of a CFL also depends on how frequently the consumer turns it on and off.

**Myth #4. CFLs do not fit in fans or candelabras.** Lamp manufacturers have developed CFL products of various wattages and designs that can be screwed directly into specialized fixtures such as fans, candelabras, chandeliers, and wall sconces.

**Myth #5. CFLs are too expensive, and energy savings are outweighed by disposal costs.**

The cost of CFLs has dropped significantly, and it's easy to recycle used or damaged bulbs. To learn more, visit [www.epa.gov/cflcleanup](http://www.epa.gov/cflcleanup).

**Myth #6. CFLs cause an annoying flicker.** All lamps exhibit two types of flicker: power frequency flicker and line voltage flicker. Power frequency flicker is more noticeable in incandescent lamps; CFLs operate at a frequency several thousand times higher causing no problem for consumers.

Line voltage flicker, caused by large inductive loads, such as when furnace motors are connected to the same electrical circuit, may or may not cause CFLs to flicker. In addition, not all CFLs have the same sensitivity or show an observable flicker in the same way.

To learn more about lighting changes visit [www.energysavers.gov/lighting](http://www.energysavers.gov/lighting).

Sources: Electric Power Research Institute