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APRIL 2009

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative



COOKSON HILLS ANNOUNCES RATE INCREASE

As stated in the March 2009 Hot Watts newsletter mailed to the members, the cooperative will see a rate increase. The forces driving this rate increase are the need for new electric generation and the cost of the cooperative doing business such as building and replacing infrastructure like poles, wires and transformers.

Member electrical consumption continues to rise at an average of approximately 2% to 3% per year. With an increase in consumption, the

need to plan and construct new electrical generation has increased. Costs are also escalating due to federal environmental regulations that have been imposed on electric utilities in regards to the generation of electricity.

The cost of infrastructure required to provide you with safe, reliable electric service also continues to increase. Poles, wires and transformers costs have increased rapidly throughout the last couple of years and appear to continue to do so.

It is never a good time to implement a rate increase; however, the decision has been made that all rates must be increased to offset the increasing cost of providing electric service. By doing so, we will be able to better maintain the financial stability of your cooperative and continue to provide you with safe and reliable electric service.

Effective with the monthly bill that reflects your April 2009 usage, members will see an overall average rate increase of 9.07%. This increase will appear on the bill you receive the first of May 2009. We have included a rate chart comparing your current rate with the new rate (*please see page 2*). Please keep in mind that the exact percentage increase to each member will vary and is dependent on your electric usage.



Kendall Beck, General Manager

As members of the cooperative, we are all affected by the increasing cost of electricity. As your friends and neighbors who live and work among you, we pledge to do everything within our power to keep the electric service reliable and affordable.

Please rest assured that Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative will continue evaluating our current costs, future costs and the needs of our cooperative and its members.

As always if you have any questions, please feel free to give us a call.

Kendall Beck
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative
General Manager

SHORTS

April 10, 2009, is the deadline to submit your application and two letters of recommendation for the Herman Driscoll Scholarship.

Congratulations, Richard C. London of Stigler. London is Cookson's February 2009 online survey winner.

GO TO WWW.COOKSONHILLS.COM AND COMPLETE THE ONLINE SURVEY FOR AN OPPORTUNITY TO WIN A \$10 CREDIT ON YOUR ELECTRIC BILL.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

NOTICE OF RATE CHANGE

EXISTING RATE	NEW RATE EFFECTIVE WITH APRIL USAGE STATEMENT DATED MAY 1, 2009
FARM & HOME SERVICE (RATE 1)	FARM & HOME SERVICE (RATE 1)
<p><u>December - February (inclusive):</u> Customer Charge \$18.00 per month Plus Energy Charge: First 800 kWh \$0.07950 per kWh Over 800 kWh \$0.05950 per kWh</p> <p><u>March - November (inclusive):</u> Customer Charge \$18.00 per month Plus Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.07950 per kWh</p>	<p><u>December - February (inclusive):</u> Customer Charge \$20.00 per month Plus Energy Charge: First 800 kWh \$0.08570 per kWh Over 800 kWh \$0.06570 per kWh</p> <p><u>March - November (inclusive):</u> Customer Charge \$20.00 per month Plus Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08570 per kWh</p>
COMMERCIAL & SMALL POWER SERVICE (RATE 2 - 1 PHASE)	COMMERCIAL & SMALL POWER SERVICE (RATE 2 - 1 PHASE)
Customer Charge \$18.00 per month Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08060 per kWh	Customer Charge \$20.00 per month Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08800 per kWh
COMMERCIAL & SMALL POWER SERVICE (RATE 3 - 3 PHASE)	COMMERCIAL & SMALL POWER SERVICE (RATE 3 - 3 PHASE)
Customer Charge \$30.00 per month Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08060 per kWh	Customer Charge \$32.00 per month Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08800 per kWh
AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (RATE 18)	AGRICULTURAL SERVICE (RATE 18)
Customer Charge \$30.00 per month Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.07250 per kWh	Customer Charge \$32.00 per month Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08010 per kWh
IRRIGATION SERVICE (RATE 27 - 1 PHASE)	IRRIGATION SERVICE (RATE 27 - 1 PHASE)
Customer Charge \$18.00 per month Demand Charge: All kW (June - Sept.) \$4.50 per kW Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.07500 per kWh	Customer Charge \$20.00 per month Demand Charge: All kW (June - Sept.) \$4.75 per kW Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08540 per kWh
IRRIGATION SERVICE (RATE 28 - 3 PHASE)	IRRIGATION SERVICE (RATE 28 - 3 PHASE)
Customer Charge \$35.00 per month Demand Charge: All kW (June - Sept.) \$4.50 per kW Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.07500 per kWh	Customer Charge \$35.00 per month Demand Charge: All kW (June - Sept.) \$4.75 per kW Energy Charge: All kWh \$0.08540 per kWh
UNMETERED SECURITY LIGHT	UNMETERED SECURITY LIGHT
Unmetered Security Light \$9.50 per month	Unmetered Security Light \$10.40 per month



Atlee Stewart and Eric Johnson, Assistant General Manager



Allen Hare



Jason Blalock and Eric Johnson, Assistant General Manager

Congratulations, linemen

Atlee Stewart, Allen Hare and **Jason Blalock**, employees of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Inc., have successfully completed Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives Powerline training program for Journeyman Lineman. The training was a four-year process of written and practical instruction.

Reminder: Scholarship applications due April 10th

The employees and Board of Directors of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Inc. award four \$500 scholarships to high school seniors each year in memory of Herman Driscoll, a long time employee and general manager of the cooperative who believed in the importance of education.

Eligibility

- Eligible seniors must meet the following criteria:
- ▶ parents 2659000 or guardians must be members of Cookson Hills Electric
 - ▶ good character
 - ▶ a grade point average of 2.0 or higher
 - ▶ good citizenship
 - ▶ an ambition to obtain further education at a state accredited college or technical school.

Application process

- ▶ Applications are available online at www.cooksonhills.com.
- ▶ Please return the application along with two letters of recommendation by April 10th to the following address:

Scholarship Committee
Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.
Attn: Teresa Shaw
P.O. Box 539
Stigler, OK 74462

Cook up some energy savings this Easter

The hours of cooking that go into preparing your Easter feast force your kitchen's most inefficient appliance — the oven — to work overtime.

Save some energy this Easter, and every time you cook a big meal, by making a few easy changes to your kitchen routine:

- Toaster ovens and microwave ovens cook with less energy than your oven or stovetop, and they work faster. You might not want to zap your roast beef or ham in the microwave, but you can use it for other parts of the meal, like steaming vegetables.

- Cook as many dishes as possible at the same time to reduce the amount of time your oven is on.

- Combine vegetables with the meat in your roasting pan to cook both at once, and place your pie on another rack to simultaneously bake it all.

- Thaw the meat in your refrigerator a day or two before roasting so you won't have to defrost it in the oven. If you're in a hurry, thaw the roast in the microwave.

- Cook in your crock pot. Even though you leave it on all day to cook, it uses less energy than your oven.



The power to save energy (and money) is in your hands

Did you know you could use your vacuum cleaner as your secret weapon for reducing your electricity bill this spring?

Vacuum refrigerator coils twice a year to keep the appliance running efficiently. Unplug your refrigerator and pull it away from the wall. The coils will either be located on the back of older models or on the bottom behind a panel.

Use your vacuum's brush attachment to clean all heating and cooling vents.

To keep your clothes dryer running efficiently, detach the exhaust hose and vacuum out built-up lint.

Cleaning your lint trap after each load will help prevent lint build up, but over time the hose can become blocked, which can create a fire hazard. Unplug the dryer and detach the hose from the back of the dryer to clean it out.

Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Turn off your power strips or unplug electronics. Power strips can turn off several appliances with the flip of one switch.

Your electronics — computer, TV, VCR, even your phone chargers — use energy even when they're turned off. Stand-by power can account for as much as 20 percent of home energy use. Unplugging your devices (or turning off the power strip) can save you money.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Hot Watts

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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