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December 2011

Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Turn off kitchen, bath, and other exhaust fans within 20 minutes after you are done cooking or bathing. When replacing exhaust fans, consider installing high-efficiency, low-noise models.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations

Angela Wacoche is our online survey winner!

Offices Closed

CHEC will be closed December 23rd & 26th in observance of Christmas.



Board Approves Capital Credit Refund for December



When you signed up to receive electric service from Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) you became a member. This month, people who were members of CHEC in 1992 are receiving a capital credit check. These funds helped us keep the lid on rates, reduced the amount of money we needed to borrow from outside lenders to build,

maintain, and expand a reliable electric distribution system, and covered emergency expenses.

Investor-owned utilities return profits back to their stockholders who may not live in the same region or even the same state. However, electric cooperatives operate locally and are non-profit organizations. As a member you share in the profits in the form of capital credits. CHEC allocates and periodically retires capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during a year.

The CHEC Board of Trustees has authorized the distribution of \$587,254.11 in capital credits. Checks will be mailed by the second week of December to active and past members who received electric service from CHEC in 1992.

Energy Efficiency LED Holiday Lights

Light emitting diodes, or LEDs, are small light sources that are illuminated by the movement of electrons through a semiconductor material. LEDs are more efficient, durable, versatile and longer lasting than incandescent and fluorescent lighting. Advantages of buying LED holiday lights this season are:

- ◆ LEDs use up to 90 percent less energy than traditional holiday lights.
- ◆ LEDs can last up to 10 times longer than traditional holiday lights.
- ◆ LEDs are cool to the touch, reducing the risk of fire.
- ◆ LEDs do not have filaments of glass so they are much more durable and shock resistant than other light strings.
- ◆ LEDs are available in a variety of colors, shapes, and lengths.



Source: www.TakeControlAndSave.coop

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 the *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill

Cookson Hills Rebate Program

Get money back when you buy Energy Star - qualified products.

According to government estimates, a household can expect to save about a third of its energy and eliminate a similar amount of greenhouse gas emissions with Energy Star-certified products. Energy Star is a United States government program designed to increase energy savings and environmental responsibility through efficient appliances, home improvement, and building methods.

During the holidays, if you purchase a new Energy Star qualified product, be sure to complete a Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) Energy Star Rebate application. You 33602 may qualify for money back on authorized appliances. This program also applies to qualified heating and air systems. As part of our electric cooperative's energy efficiency initiative, rebates are being offered throughout the year to members who replace older, less efficient products with Energy Star certified models. For more information, contact Donna Rhodes at 918-775-2211 or 800-328-2368. You may also visit our website at www.cooksonhills.com for more details.



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 - Call for more information on rebate.	

CHEC held Blood Drive in Sallisaw



Left to right: CHEC employees; Marty Huff, Reuben Kemp, Jeremy Baker, and Matthew Davis. Photo by: Donna Rhodes

brought their blood mobile unit from their Ft. Smith office. The Oklahoma Blood Institute owns offices in Oklahoma, Arkansas and Texas.

Several employees from CHEC, Peter's Agency, Blue Ribbon Auto Group, and several other people in the community donated blood for this drive. CHEC met their quota on that day. Each donor received either an OU or OSU t-shirt. They also had a chance to win a pair of Bedlam football game tickets.

The blood donated at this blood drive was processed, then returned to local hospitals in the area.

CHEC appreciates all the donors that participated in this blood drive, and the employees of the Oklahoma Blood Institute.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) held a blood drive at their Sallisaw office on November 4, 2011. The Oklahoma Blood Institute

New Stigler Substation

Electricity enhances your life, from lights and entertainment to the comfort level of your home. However, since power plants are not next door to homes, electricity must travel long distances to reach your home. The procedure needed to accomplish the process of delivering power from Point A (power plant) to Point B (your home) combines several key components, including substations.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) and KAMO Power, the company that provides electricity to CHEC, have completed construction on the new Stigler substation.

“With the new substation complete, we will have more reliable and improved service for the members in the Stigler area. One of the main benefits of this new substation is the capability for dual transmission feed. The old substation only had a radial feed, so if there were any transmission problems the old substation could not feed from another direction. The new Stigler substation can be fed from two different directions,” explained Brett Orme, CHEC Director of Engineering.

“This new substation will also help with future load growth in Haskell County,” added Dalen Garner, CHEC Director of Operations.

CHEC operates twelve substations in its service area. Each contains a wide range of equipment, including transformers, lighting arrestors, circuit breakers, insulators, and more.

Substations remain an important part of CHEC’s electric system. The equipment housed within these substations help ensure that CHEC can continue providing you with a safe, reliable, and affordable supply of electricity. Remember, the voltage entering and exiting substations far exceeds anything you will find at home. Substation fences help protect you from the high voltage dangers inside.



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Photos by: Larry Mattes

COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Standard Fees

New service connect.....	\$25.00
Normal disconnect (if needed immediately).....	\$25.00
Normal reconnect.....	\$25.00
Disconnect for non-payment of electric service.....	\$75.00
Reconnect for non-payment of electric service (during normal office hours).....	\$75.00
Trip charge for non-payment of electric service if not disconnected.....	\$50.00
Meter reading or read out if member requests meter to be physically read.....	\$50.00
Security light connect (if needed immediately).....	\$50.00
Meter reseal if called in by member.....	\$25.00
Meter reseal if found by CHEC representative.....	\$50.00
Destroyed residential meter	\$200.00
Meter test.....	\$25.00
Tampered service.....	\$200.00
After-hours reconnect for non-payment.....	\$250.00

Avoid a Holiday Decorating Disaster

Few traditions are as unique to the holidays as decorating our homes and yards with lights and festive decorations. While these displays add to the magic of the season, they also increase our risks for holiday fires and injuries. So follow these steps to ensure that your traditions result in a safe, bright, and happy time for your family.

Carefully inspect each electrical decoration and extension cord before use, and discard any damaged items. Cracked sockets, bare or frayed wires, and loose connections may cause a serious shock or fire. Avoid overloading outlets, which can overheat and cause a fire.

The Electrical Safety Foundation International recommends never connecting more than three strands of incandescent lights together. Do not pinch cords in windows or doors, or under heavy furniture.

When decorating outside, make sure outdoor outlets are equipped with ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs). Check that all items and extension cords are marked for outdoor use. Exercise extreme caution when decorating near overhead power lines. Use a wooden or fiberglass ladder instead of metal. Keep yourself and all of your equipment at least 10 feet from power lines.

Take special care with Christmas trees. If purchasing a live tree, check for freshness. Heated rooms dry out live



Courtesy Photo

trees, even fresh ones, rapidly. Place the tree at least three feet away from all heat sources, including fireplaces and space heaters. Be sure to keep the stand filled with water. For artificial trees, look for the label "fire resistant."

Decorate your tree, live or artificial, with non-combustible or flame-resistant materials. Never use burning candles on or near your tree.

Whether your house is the most festive on the block or you prefer a more low-key style, make safety an important part of your holiday preparations.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories (UL)

Cookson Hills Residential Disconnection Policy

Each residential member has a billing due date according to the billing cycle they are on. If the bill is not paid by 5:00 p.m. on the due date, the member will be mailed a delinquent/cutoff notice. Should the account remain unpaid within five days after the due date, the electric service will be subject to disconnection without further notice.

Reconnection of disconnected meters may be done during regular business hours after the bill and associated fees are paid in full. The fees will consist of a \$75.00 disconnect fee and a \$75.00 reconnect fee plus the delinquent amount. The fees for after-hour reconnects will consist of a \$75.00 disconnect fee and a \$250.00 after-hours reconnect fee plus the delinquent amount. In some cases, the member will be required to pay a new or additional deposit when reconnecting their residential service due to non-payment.

To avoid possible disconnection of your electric service in the event you are unable to pay your bill, you should come into the office to make payment arrangements on or

before the cutoff date. Each member is allowed no more than three payment arrangements per calendar year.

If you fail to keep a payment arrangement, your service will be subject to disconnection without further notice. Please note that courtesy calls are made to all members who have telephone numbers on file.

