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March 2012

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

Adding insulation to your home? An R-value indicates insulation's resistance to heat flow, a higher R-value means more effective insulation. Every type of insulation has a unique R-value depending on material, thickness, and density. Your ideal R-value depends on whether your home is new or existing, what you heat your home with, and where you live. Learn more at [energysavers.gov](http://energysavers.gov).

Source: U.S. Department  
of Energy

### Congratulations

Daryl Crawford  
is our online survey  
winner!



## pay•as•you•go

### Prepaid Energy Solution for Residential Members

#### What is pay•as•you•go metering?

► With pay•as•you•go metering, you pay for electricity how and when you choose. Purchasing electricity before you use it allows you to control your budget and pay the amount you want, when you want. There are no security deposits or late fees. Instead of a monthly billing statement, your usage and balance are calculated daily. Track your usage online at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) (click on "View Your Account"), or you may contact your local Cookson Hills office to check your prepaid balance.

#### How does it work?

► You purchase electricity before you use it. Payments can be made when you want; online, over the phone, or in person at a Cookson Hills



*Courtesy Photo*

office. When your account runs low, you will get an alert by phone or electronic message, letting you know it is time to recharge your account.

#### What if my account runs out?

► If funds in your account run out, your electric service will be automatically disconnected. You can purchase more power online, by phone, or in person to have your electric service restored. Automatic reconnection of electric service will be limited to a certain period of time each business day.

*Article continued on page 2*

## Applications for Scholarships Due April 6

Are you a high school senior who is graduating this spring? Are you a dependent of a member of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative? Do you need help with college expenses?

The employees and Board of Trustees of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative award four \$500 scholarships to high

school seniors each year. The scholarship is in memory of Herman Driscoll, long time employee and general manager of the cooperative, who believed in the importance of education.

Seniors may obtain an application from their high school counselor, visit our website [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com), or contact CHEC at 918-967-4614 or toll-free 800-328-2368.



### 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**

Continued from page 1

## pay•as•you•go

### Who can participate in the program?

► Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative members receiving electric service under the residential rate.

### Is the pay•as•you•go program the right choice for me?

► Would it be easier for you to make daily, weekly or bi-weekly payments rather than one large payment each month?

Prepaying works best for people who want to take control of their electric account and energy usage. By monitoring your consumption on a regular basis, you will begin to notice patterns in your day-to-day usage. Any variation from this pattern, such as a house guest (increase) or a vacation (decrease), will become evident as you monitor your account. Monitoring and controlling daily usage can help keep those electric costs down.

Statistics indicate prepaid electricity programs help lower electric consumption due to member's awareness of usage patterns.

Any member interested in monitoring and lowering their electric usage would benefit from the pay•as•you•go program.

### Will I pay a deposit?

► No. Pay•as•you•go members do not pay a deposit. Existing Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative members will have their deposit used to pay any past due balance on their account, and the rest will be applied to their prepaid account balance.

### Will I receive a bill?

► No. Pay•as•you•go accounts do not receive a monthly bill.

As always if you have any questions, please call Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative at 918-967-4614 or toll-free at 800-328-2368.

# Spring Forward

We spring forward this year on March 11th, kicking off months of extra sunlight in the evening. These extra daylight hours save electricity by allowing members to turn the lights on a little later in the evening.



## Springtime A/C Check Well Worth the Money

The best way to save on energy expenses this summer might be to have your air conditioning system inspected. A professional HVAC technician will inspect all of the components of your system and let you know if you need any repairs. This way you will have a heads-up before the cooling season begins and you are stuck without air conditioning on the hottest day of the summer with an unexpected breakdown.

**A note:** It is usually cheaper to pay per inspection rather than to sign an annual contract for A/C and heating maintenance.



Either way, paying a pro to maintain your heating and cooling system is worth the money.

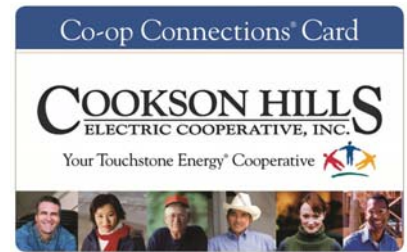
# Co-op Connections Cards will be mailed in April

Cooperatives nationwide have joined the Co-op Connections Card program through Touchstone Energy, to bring value to their members as well as participating businesses through the discount program. The program is a free service that allows more value for your dollar as a Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative member.

When you present your card at participating businesses, you get a discount. There is no charge to our members or the businesses that participate. You will receive your card around the third week of April as a direct mail piece to the address we have on file. Be sure not to mistake this as something else. This envelope will contain your Co-op Connections Card.

One of the most exciting benefits of the card is the significant savings on pharmacy prescriptions, dental, vision, hearing, lab and imaging services, and chiropractic work. The Co-op Connections Card program benefits cooperative

members by offering 10 to 60 percent savings on most prescriptions at over 48,000 independent pharmacies and national chains including; CVS, Walgreens, Wal-Mart, Target and more.



With soaring prescription prices, this discount pharmacy program will work for your family and you. The Co-op Connections Card program is just one more advantage to being a member of Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative. For more information on this program, as a member or a business, you can contact your local office at 918-967-4614 (Stigler), 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw), or toll-free at 800-328-2368. You can also obtain information by visiting [www.connections.coop](http://www.connections.coop).

## Caulk up the Savings, Common Caulking Compounds

Caulk Type	Recommended Uses	Cleanup	Shrinkage	Adhesion	Comments
<b>Silicone</b> 	Seals most dissimilar building materials such as wood, stone, vinyl, metal flashing, and brick.	Immediately with dry cloth and mineral spirits or naphtha	Little or none	Good to excellent	Permits joints to stretch or compress. Will stick to paint surfaces, but paint will not adhere to most silicones.
<b>Polyurethane, expandable spray foam</b> 	Expands when curing. Good for larger cracks. Use in non-friction areas, because foam becomes dry and powdery over time.	Immediately with solvent such as thinner	None; expands quite a bit	Good to excellent	Quickly expands to fit larger irregularly shaped gaps. Flexible, can be applied at variable temperatures. Must be painted for exterior use to protect from ultraviolet radiation.
<b>Water-based spray foam</b> 	Around window and door frames in new construction or remodeling projects; smaller cracks.	Water	None; expands only 25%	Good to excellent	Takes 24 hours to cure. Will not overexpand to bend window frames. Must be exposed to air to dry. Not useful for larger gaps.
<b>Butyl rubber</b> 	Seals most dissimilar materials such as glass, metal, plastic, wood, and concrete. Seals around windows and flashings; bonds loose shingles.	Mineral spirits or naphtha	5%-30%	Good	Last 10 or more years. Resilient, but not brittle. Can be painted after one week. Variable shrinkage, may require two applications.
<b>Oil or resin-based</b> 	Seals exterior seams and joints on almost all building materials.	Mineral spirits or naphtha	10%-20%	Good	Low cost. Rope and tube forms available. Oils dry out and cause material to harden and fall out. Low durability; last 1-4 years. Poor adhesion to surfaces such as masonry.

Source: NRECA

# Stay Safe around Overhead Power Lines

As farmers make plans to return to their fields for spring planting, Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) urges farm workers to be particularly alert to the dangers of working near overhead power lines.

Always be aware of the location of power lines, and designate preplanned routes that avoid hazardous areas.

Be aware of increased height when loading and transporting tractors on trailer beds. Many tractors are equipped with radios and communication systems that have very tall antennas extending from the cab that could make contact with power lines. Avoid raising the arms of planters or cultivators or raising truck beds near power lines, and never attempt to raise or move a power line to clear a path.

Simply coming too close to a power line while working is dangerous as electricity can arc or “jump” to conducting material or objects, such as a ladder, pole, or truck. Remember, non-metallic materials such as lumber, tree limbs, tires, ropes, and hay will conduct electricity depending on dampness, dust, and dirt contamination.

When guy wires (grounded wires used to stabilize utility poles) are broken, these normally neutral wires can be anything but harmless. If you hit a guy wire and break it, call CHEC to repair it. Do not 354003 do it yourself. When dealing with electrical poles and wires, always call the electric cooperative.



Photo by: SafeElectricity.org

If your equipment does come into contact with power lines, stay in the cab and call for help. Warn others who may be nearby to stay away and wait until the electric utility arrives.

If leaving the cab is necessary, as in the case of fire, the proper action is to jump, not step, with both feet hitting the ground at the same time. Hop to safety, keeping both feet together as you leave the area. Once you get away from the equipment, never attempt to get back on or even touch the equipment before the power has been shut off.

For more information on electric safety and to see videos about power line safety, visit [www.SafeElectricity.org](http://www.SafeElectricity.org).



MY APPLIANCES  
AREN'T THE  
ONLY ENERGY  
STARS IN MY  
HOUSE.

I'm saving just by using more efficient settings on my ENERGY STAR® qualified appliances. What can you do? Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).



TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

## The Hot Watts Q&A

**Question:** I already have service with Cookson Hills. Why do I have to fill out another membership application to switch my service to a new location?

**Answer:** A membership application is required for every meter. When you sign a membership application, you are taking responsibility to pay for the account. In addition, this allows us to keep your account information updated.