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# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency  
*Tip of the Month*

Keep wintery drafts out of your home by sealing cracks and gaps. Weather stripping around doors and windows works well when you can see daylight between the frame and the wall or floor. Use caulk to seal around the frames where you see gaps. For more tips and tricks, visit [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

Source: Together WeSave.com

**Congratulations**

Glen Qualls is our online survey winner!



## Electric Co-ops and Climate Change

On June 25, 2013, President Barack Obama directed the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) to use the Clean Air Act to reduce greenhouse gas emissions such as carbon dioxide from new and existing power plants. The National Rural Electric Cooperative Association (NRECA) issued a comment to the EPA to reconsider the plan which directly relates to coal-fired electric utility steam generating units.

NRECA is the national service organization for more than 900 not-for-profit rural electric utilities that provide electric service to approximately 42 million consumers in 47 states or 13% of the nation's population. All or portions of 2,500 of the nation's 3,128 counties are served by rural electric cooperatives. Collectively, cooperative service areas cover 75 percent of the U.S. landmass.

Sixty-five rural electric generating and transmission cooperatives (G&Ts) generate and transmit power to 668 of 841 distribution cooperatives. The G&Ts are owned by the distribution cooperatives they serve. The remaining distribution cooperatives receive power directly from other generation sources

within the electric sector. A significant portion of the power purchased directly by distribution cooperatives originates from coal-fired generation.

The EPA's proposal will limit fuel diversity and create a regressive new climate tax on electric cooperative consumers.

NRECA believes the Clean Air Act was never intended, and should not be used, to regulate greenhouse gases. This proposed regulation fails to recognize the importance of coal as America's most abundant domestic fuel. America's electric cooperatives continue to embrace all domestic fuels: nuclear, natural gas, renewable, and coal. We depend on a diverse fuel mix to keep power affordable and reliable.

Electric cooperatives face growing uncertainty over what the future of a U.S. climate change policy will be and how the future policy would affect the ability of cooperatives to provide affordable, reliable, and safe electric power.

NRECA has set up a website to help you learn more about this issue.

Go to [www.action.coop](http://www.action.coop) to learn more.



## *CHEC's 65th Annual Meeting*

The Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 65<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 5, 2013, at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 11:00 a.m. We hope to see you there!

## 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 Electric Cooperative, Inc. welcomes members to submit photos, and articles which will be subject to editing. Cookson Hills reserves the right to publish or modify any article. Companies and individuals featured in the Hot Watts newsletter do not necessarily reflect the official policy, position, or view of Cookson Hills.**

**If You Find Your Account Number Hidden in This Issue of the *Hot Watts* You'll Receive a \$25 Credit on Your Electric Bill**

## Protect Your Home from Electrical Fires

Each year, electrical failures and malfunctions cause 43,900 home fires resulting in 438 deaths, 1,430 injuries, and \$1.47 billion in property damage. But many home electrical fires can be prevented simply by understanding basic electrical safety principles and following safe practices.

This year's Fire Prevention Week campaign—Oct. 6-12—focuses on kitchen fires. Follow these safety tips to help protect your home and family:

- Safety should always be the top priority when working with electricity. ESFI recommends that a qualified, licensed electrician perform all home electrical work in compliance with local and national safety standards.
- Consider having your circuit breakers replaced with arc fault circuit interrupters (AFCIs), which provide enhanced electrical fire protection by detecting dangerous arcing conditions.
- Make sure all electrical panel circuits are properly labeled. Always replace fuses or circuit breakers with the correct size and amperage.
- Keep the area around the electrical panel clear so you can easily shut off power in an emergency.
- Every month, use the TEST button to check that ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCIs) at outlets and AFCIs are working properly.
- Be mindful of warning signs of an electrical problem, such as outlets and switches that are warm or make crackling, sizzling, or buzzing noises.
- Regularly check cords, outlets, switches, and appliances for signs of damage. Do not use damaged electrical devices.
- Do not use extension cords on a permanent basis, and never use them with space heaters or air conditioners.
- Avoid overloading outlets.
- Do not use lightbulbs that exceed the recommended wattage of the light fixture or lamp.



Source: Electrical Safety Foundation International

## Fall Safety Tips

Autumn is one of the best times of the year for children and adults too. For many people, events like Halloween and Harvest Day are fun times to dress up in costumes, go trick-or-treating, attend parties, and eat yummy treats. Check out these tips to help make the festivities fun and safe for everyone.

- Inspect electrical decorations. Look for cracked or frayed sockets, loose or bare wires, and loose connections.
- Be sure walking areas and stairs are well-lit and free of obstacles that could result in falls.
- Keep candle-lit jack o'lanterns and luminaries away from doorsteps, walkways, landings, and curtains. Place them on sturdy tables. Keep them out of the reach of pets and small children, and never leave them unattended.
- Remind drivers to watch out for trick-or-treaters and to drive safely.



# Consider Your Payment Options

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. (CHEC) is always striving to save time and control costs for our members and the cooperative. One area to find more affordable opportunities is through our payment options.

## **Automatic Bank Draft**

### **Automatic Credit/Debit Card Draft**

Sign up for the Automatic Bank Draft program or the Automatic Credit/Debit Card Draft program. It is a convenient way to pay your monthly electric bill via automatic draft of your checking or savings account or of your credit/debit card. You can save the cost of a check, postage, a trip to the office, and your time, and possibly preventing you from forgetting to pay. You can sign up for these programs at one of our office locations or online at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com). These payment options are **free of charge**.



## **SmartHub**

SmartHub gives members secure access to maintain their account information, view bills, review payment history, make payments on one or more accounts, and set up recurring payments.

Go to our website [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) to register your accounts. The web version has a profile page available for members to maintain their personal information, password, security pass phrase, and stored payment methods.



Our mobile app can be downloaded and installed on your compatible mobile phone or tablet device. To download the app for your phone or tablet, simply look for "SmartHub" in the Apple Store or in the Android Market. If duplicates appear, the correct app is provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app will be free to download and install.

Customers making payments through SmartHub will be charged a \$3.95 convenience fee. If you have multiple payments you will be charged an additional \$3.95 for each payment made. Maximum payment amount per transaction is \$1,000.00 plus a convenience fee of \$3.95.

## **Pay-by-Phone**

Members can pay any time by telephone using a credit or debit card. Call **888-678-1937** to pay by phone. This new number will provide additional security for members that utilize the Pay-by-Phone option. You will be charged a convenience fee of \$3.95 for amounts up to \$1,000.00 to use the Pay-by-Phone service. If you have multiple payments you will be charged an additional \$3.95 for each amount up to \$1,000.00.



CHEC encourages you to consider one of the options listed above. Regardless of which option you choose, you will continue to receive a statement of your monthly usage for your records.

## **“Win a \$50 bill credit”**

Members joining the Automatic Bank Draft program between October 1 to November 15 will be automatically entered into a drawing for a \$50 bill credit. Members enrolling in the Automatic Bank Draft program during this promotion must remain enrolled in the program for 12 consecutive months. Members can sign up at one of our office locations or online at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com). The deadline to enroll is November 15, 2013.

# COOKSON HILL S

ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.  
1002 East Main • P.O. Box 539  
Stigler, OK 74462

A Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

Account number: (as it appears on your bill)

Name: (as it appears on your bill)

Address:

City, State, Zip Code:

Telephone number:

E-mail address:

## Your Home

- Do you own or rent your home?  Own  Rent
- How many square feet of living space do you have?  
 Less than 1,000  1,500 - 1,999  2,500 - 2,999  
 1,000 - 1,499  2,000 - 2,499  3,000 or more
- Approximately when was your home built?  
 Before 1970  1980-1989  2000-2004  After 2009  
 1970-1979  1990-1999  2005-2009
- Which best describes your account?  
 Single family residence  Farm  
 Multi-family: apt/condo/duplex  Vacation or seasonal home  
 Mobile or modular home  Non-residence
- What fuel does your water heater use?  
 Electricity  Propane  Natural gas  Other
- Approximately what year was your water heater installed?  
 Before 1990  1995-1999  2005-2009  
 1990-1994  2000-2004  After 2009
- What size is your water heater (in gallons)?  
 20-29  40-49  60-69  80+  
 30-39  50-59  70-79  Tankless
- What is your home's main source of heat?  
 Electricity  Propane  Other  
 Natural gas  Wood
- How many refrigerators or freezers are in use in your home?  
 1  2  3 or more  None

## Your Cooperative

- How satisfied are you overall with Cookson Hills Electric? (1 is not at all satisfied and 5 is very satisfied)  
 1  2  3  4  5

**Complete this survey for a chance to win  
1 - \$100 bill credit or one of 4 - \$25 credits!**  
**Your comments and information will only be used by  
Cookson Hills. Understanding our members helps us serve you  
better. We appreciate your input!**  
 You may also go online to complete! Simply go to:  
[coopstats.com/Cookson13](http://coopstats.com/Cookson13)  
**Deadline for entry November 15, 2013**

- Have you ever visited our website [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com)?  
 Yes  No  No internet (skip to #13)
- On the co-op's website, what features would you most likely read or use? (all that apply)  
 Online account access  Read co-op publication  
 Learn about co-op programs  Buy products/services  
 Pay bill online  Submit service requests
- How often do you read the cooperative's newsletter, "Hot Watts?"  
 Always  Sometimes  Rarely  Never
- How often do you read the "Oklahoma Living" Newspaper you receive each month?  
 Always  Sometimes  Rarely  Never
- Are you interested in any of these bill payment options currently offered by Cookson Hills Electric? (all that apply)  
 Automatic bank draft  Fire department billing  
 Levelized billing  Online bill payment  
 Automatic credit or debit card draft  Prepaid (Pay-as-you-go)
- Have you used SmartHub which allows you to check usage, receive notifications and access online bill payment?  
 Yes  No
- How likely are you to use SmartHub in the future?  
 Very likely  Somewhat likely  Not at all likely
- If you were to receive a patronage capital refund, would you prefer to receive it in the form of a:  
 Credit on your bill  No preference  
 Check through the mail
- How concerned are you about potential future EPA regulations that may affect your electric bill?  
 Very concerned  Somewhat concerned  Not concerned

## Other Information

- How many people live in your household?  
 1  2  3  4  5  6+
- Into which category does your age fall?  
 Under 25  35-44  55-64  75+  
 25-34  45-54  65-74
- Which best describes your occupation?  
 White collar (office, retail, sales)  Blue collar (manufacturing, construction, transportation)  
 Agriculture (farmer, rancher, livestock, crops, etc.)  Professional (advanced degree or training)  
 Unemployed/disabled  Retired

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