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Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Programmable thermostats can save up to \$160 a year in energy costs. Match thermostat settings to your schedule.

In the winter, set the thermostat to 68 degrees during the day (lower at night when you're snug in bed). By turning your thermostat down 10 to 15 degrees for at least eight hours, you can shave 5 to 15 percent from your heating costs.

Source:
TogetherWeSave.com,
U.S. Department of
Energy

Congratulations!

Leon Flesher
is our online survey
winner.



Winter weather continues in Oklahoma

Legend has it that if the groundhog sees his shadow on February 2nd, there will be another six weeks of winter. If he doesn't see it, spring will come early. We didn't need a groundhog to tell us to expect more winter weather across Cookson Hills Electric (CHEC) territory.

On Sunday, February 2, the morning began with sleet and snow and continued throughout the next week. On February 4, as a result of ice accumulations, CHEC crews spent most of the day replacing two broken poles east of Vian. Approximately 400 members were without electricity for the afternoon.

This year has been an exceptionally cold winter with more than our share of freezing temperatures and precipitation. However, CHEC members have had very few disruptions in electric service throughout the season. The reasons are two-fold: regular inspections and maintenance of our overhead distribution lines in our service territory, and fewer severe storms in our area of eastern Oklahoma.

If you experience a disruption in your electric service for any reason, please call either our toll free number 800-328-2368 or our branch office at 918-775-2211 to report your outage.



PHOTOS BY KEVIN HARVELL

CHEC Linemen replacing poles in Sequoyah County

Scholarship applications due April 4th!

April 4th will be the last day to turn in applications for the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship. The scholarship committee will award a \$500 scholarship to four area high school seniors planning to attend college or technical school.

Applications and guidelines may be obtained at the CHEC offices or website at www.cooksonhills.com under "News & Events." If you have any questions, please contact Felicia Williams at 800-328-2368.

Hot Watts

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

When to pull the plug

Saying goodbye to an old friend can be daunting. But pulling the plug on an outdated refrigerator or dishwasher might save you money; new appliances are often considerably more energy-efficient.

A new refrigerator consumes 75 percent less energy than a 1970s model. Replace a vintage clothes washer and save \$60 on utility bills and nearly 5,000 gallons of water a year, according to the Association of Home Appliance Manufacturers. Not every new appliance is a good bet; always look for the ENERGY STAR label. It signals energy-efficient models.

Ready to save? Walk through your home to find opportunities to pull the plug!



Cleaning Laundry & Kitchen Costs

In the laundry room, a full-sized ENERGY STAR-certified clothes washer uses 15 gallons of water per load, compared to the 23 gallons used by a standard machine. During the machine's lifetime, this saves 27,000 gallons of water.

Replace your kitchen's classic refrigerator with an ENERGY STAR-certified model to save between \$200 and \$1,100 in lifetime energy costs. Today's average refrigerator uses less energy than a continually lit 60-watt light bulb. Resist the urge to move the old refrigerator to the basement or the garage. Instead, say goodbye and recycle the energy-guzzler.

Was your dishwasher built before 1994? If so, you're paying an extra \$40 a year on your utility bills compared to neighbors with an ENERGY STAR-qualified model.

Smart Settings

Attached to old appliances? You can still save with smart settings. For example, heating water creates the greatest expense when washing dishes or clothes. Set your water heater at 120 degrees and be sure your clothes washer or dishwasher is full whenever used.

Here are a few other ways to save without buying new appliances:

- **NOT TOO COOL FOOD:** In the kitchen, don't keep your refrigerator or freezer too cold. Recommended temperatures are 37 to 40 degrees for the fresh food compartment and 5 degrees for the freezer section.
- **TOAST, DON'T ROAST:** Use toaster ovens or microwave ovens for small meals rather than your large stovetop or oven.
- **AIR DRY DISHES:** Use the dishwasher's "eco" option or use a no-heat air dry feature. Scrape food pieces off the plates, rather than rinsing them.
- **COLD CLOTHES:** In the laundry room, wash your clothes in cold water using cold-water detergents whenever possible. Adjust load settings for smaller loads.
- **LOSE LINT:** Clean the lint screen in the dryer after every use to improve the dryer's efficiency.

For other tips on how to save energy, and to find out how little changes add up visit www.TogetherWeSave.com.

Source: NRECA-Straight Talk

Connect with SmartHub

Are you using SmartHub?

SmartHub is an application that is available in both mobile apps and a web version to give members secure access to maintain their account information, view bills, see payment history, make payments on one or more accounts, set up recurring payments, and report outages. SmartHub allows you to monitor and manage your electricity usage by use of bar graphics and usage markers.

Go to our website 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 apps 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, look for the app provided by our partner, National Information Solutions Cooperative (NISC). The app is free to download and install. Members making payments



through SmartHub will be charged a \$3.95 convenience fee.

If you aren't using SmartHub, consider starting today. SmartHub is a convenient method of payment and communication. If you have any questions concerning SmartHub, please contact your local office at 800-328-2368 (Stigler), or at 918-775-2211 (Sallisaw).

Daylight Saving Time

"Spring forward, fall back." Most of us can recite this expression by memory, reminding us to set our clocks forward an hour in the spring and back an hour in the fall. Although some of us will struggle to adjust to Daylight Saving Time (DST), most would agree that the additional end-of-day sunlight will be graciously welcomed. Most of the United States cities will start DST at 2:00 a.m. on Sunday, March 9th. The clocks will "spring forward" by shifting the time on the clock forward an hour so that evenings have more daylight and mornings have less.

Did you know that DST has been used in the U.S. and in many European countries since World War I? At that time, it was used in an effort to conserve fuel needed to produce electric power.



The plan was not formally adopted in the U.S. until 1918. 'An Act to preserve daylight and provide standard time for the United States' was enacted on March 19, 1918.

Over the decades many laws were implemented and amended regarding DST. In the early 1960s, observance of DST was quite inconsistent. The Uniform Time Act of 1966 established a system of uniform (within each time zone) DST throughout the U.S. and its possessions, exempting only those states in which the legislatures voted to keep the entire state on standard time.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 changed the start and end dates of DST in order to save energy, and the Department of Energy has found that it worked. The savings from the shift, while small, adds up to electricity savings of 1.3 billion kilowatt hours -- or the amount of electricity used by more than 100,000 households for an entire year. These electricity savings 225800 generally occur during a three to five hour period in the evening.

'An Act to preserve daylight and provide standard time for the United States'

Most of us would probably agree that Daylight Saving Time presents a mixed bag of costs and benefits. But one thing is certain: you must remember to change your clocks. Please don't forget to "spring forward" this month.

W.W. GROCERY

PHOTOS BY DONNA RHODES



If you have ever been in the Long Community in eastern Sequoyah County, then more than likely you have passed by or visited W.W. Grocery. The store sits on a sharp curve on Highway 64B seven miles north of Muldrow. W.W. Grocery has been a member of Cookson Hills Electric (CHEC) for over 40 years.

Larry and Mary Morgan are the owners of W.W. Grocery. Larry bought the store in 1988 from Walter and Wanda Levings who built the store many years prior. The Morgan's added onto the store 15 years ago and have made several changes to the interior of the building.

W.W. Grocery is a typical country store that sells a little bit of everything including groceries, automotive supplies, health and beauty aids, gasoline, and many other items. The store also sells feed for cattle, horses, and chickens as well.

The store is open seven days a week with varying closing times. Larry is trying to semi-retire at this point in his life. "I'm going to eventually retire and turn the business over to my daughter, Melissa. There are five employees not counting Melissa and myself. This summer Janie Taylor will have worked here for 21 years. The

grocery becomes your life. I didn't realize that when I bought it, but I found that out in a hurry," said Larry.

"We have our regular customers. Most of our business is from people in this area and north of here toward Nicut. I would say every year about 35% to 40% percent are new faces, but then about the same numbers of people move out during that year. It's been a good 25 years and it's been a real experience. I've seen a lot of people come and go and a lot of good customers die. I'm grateful for what I've got and what I've had."

Larry was raised in Muldrow and has been a life-time resident of Sequoyah County. Larry has two children: his daughter Melissa, and his son who is deceased; three grandchildren, and two great grandchildren.

Larry and Mary have been married 17 years and live north of Roland in a house they built after they married. Mary works at the Sequoyah County Election Board where she has been employed for many years.

Congratulations to the Morgans for continuing the legacy of W.W. Grocery. We wish them much success for the future. CHEC is proud to supply electric services to small businesses in rural communities.

Take Control & Save

A cooperative effort for energy efficiency

Once again Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) and Associated Electric Cooperative (AECI) are partnering together to provide our members the "Take Control and Save" program for 2014. The program was designed to promote efficient use of electric in an effort to reduce consumer energy costs. We understand that by spending less on your energy costs, you can save money for other important things in life.

CHEC has rebates available on room air conditioners, electric water heaters, ground source heat pumps, and dual fuel & mini-split heat pumps as well.

To qualify for these rebates, you must be a member of CHEC. A complete list of the eligibility criteria and rebate requirements is available on our website at www.cooksonhills.com and at your local office. If you have any questions, please contact Donna Rhodes at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.