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# Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

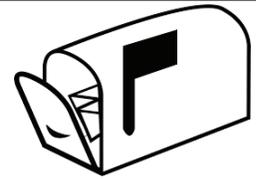
Electric bills increase during the winter for a variety of reasons—holiday gatherings, houseguests, and shorter days and longer nights. Small measures, like turning down your thermostat, replacing incandescent bulbs with LEDs and washing clothes in cold water, can help control energy costs.

Source:  
*TogetherWeSave.com*

### Congratulations!

**Carl Schulze**  
is our online  
survey winner.

## Capital Credit Checks in the Mail



Each December, CHEC members anticipate the arrival of their capital credit check. The CHEC Board of Trustees have authorized the retirement and distribution of \$809,913.59 in capital credits for the year 1997 and for a portion of 1998. Current and former members of CHEC, who received electric service in 1997 and 1998, will receive a capital credit check in the mail.

Capital credits reflect each member's ownership in and contribution of capital to the cooperative. Member-owned, not-for-profit

electric cooperatives set rates to generate enough money to pay operating expenses. At the end of the year, the cooperative subtracts operating expenses from the operating revenue collected during the year. Margins are allocated to members as capital credits based on how much electricity you purchased during the year.

Capital credit checks will be mailed in early December. If you were a member of CHEC in 1997 or 1998 and you do not receive a capital credit check, please contact our office at 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.

## Scholarships Available to Area Students

The employees and Board of Trustees of CHEC offer four \$500 scholarships each year in memory of Herman Driscoll, long-time employee and former General Manager of CHEC. Mr. Driscoll believed that education is of foremost importance to success.

The Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship is awarded to high school seniors whose parents or guardians are members of CHEC. To be eligible for consideration, students must have a GPA of 2.0 or better, good character, good citizenship, financial need, and a desire to further their education. Additionally, seniors must enroll as a

full-time student at a college or technical school.

High school seniors may complete the application on page four of this Hot Watts issue or obtain an application from the CHEC website [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com).

Please return your application, along with two letters of recommendation by March 3, 2017, to the following address:

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.  
Scholarship Committee  
Attention: Felicia Williams  
PO Box 539  
Stigler, OK 74462



## Offices Closed

CHEC will be closed on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> in observance of Christmas. CHEC will also be closed on January 2, 2017, in observance of the New Year. For an emergency, please call 800-328-2368. In the event of a phone outage, please call the Alternate Emergency Only line at 918-552-0016.

Headquarters Office  
PO Box 539 • 1002 E. Main  
Stigler, OK 74462  
800-328-2368

Branch Office  
PO Box 587 • 1800 KOA/Power Drive  
Sallisaw, OK 74955  
918-775-2211

Pay-by-Phone: 1-888-678-1937  
www.cooksonhills.com

Alternate Emergency Only:  
918-552-0016



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*Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. is an equal opportunity provider and employer.*



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

# Safely Lighting up the Holiday Season

The holiday season just would not be the same for many people without the bright and colorful light displays that decorate houses and city streets alike. Unfortunately, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC) reports that thousands of people are sent to the emergency room every holiday season because of injuries sustained from lighting and decorating. Safe Electricity provides tips for those who are undertaking holiday lighting and decorating projects to help them do safely.

Begin by checking that every strand of lights has been tested and approved by an official lab and make sure the cord is rated for where it will be used — whether indoors or outside. Examine each strand for any fraying or damage. To prevent possible electrical shocks or fires, do not use any damaged cords. Typically, one extension cord should only have three strands of lights connected to it at most, but you should also check that the extension cord is rated for its intended use.

Lights and decorations that are outdoors should be plugged into an outlet with ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) protection. "GFCIs are inexpensive electrical devices that can be installed in a home's electrical system or built into a power cord to protect against electrical shock" explains Mike Ashenfelter, Safe Electricity Advisory Board member. "A GFCI constantly monitors the flow of electricity through a circuit and will shut the circuit down if it senses a ground fault."

Installing a GFCI can protect you from electrical shock from damaged

or defective decorations, or accidental electrical contact with water. GFCIs can be installed in a circuit breaker box or in an outlet and can be used anywhere you need it with the portable version. They should be permanently installed in areas near water. This includes: bathrooms, kitchens, garages, basements, and the outdoors. GFCIs should be used with all outdoor decorations to prevent accidental injury.

Also, consider switching to LED lighting, which produces light without the heat of conventional incandescent bulbs and has more durable and shatter-proof lenses than the glass lenses of incandescent lighting. LED lighting may have a higher initial cost than traditional incandescent lights (an LED strand can cost around twice as much). However, at 25,000 hours and up, it also has an effective lifespan 25 times that of incandescent lights.

"Not only do LEDs last much longer," adds Ashenfelter, "but they are also six to seven times more energy efficient than conventional lighting. So even though LED lights may be more expensive to buy, they can more than pay for themselves over the course of a few holiday seasons."

In addition, extra caution should be exercised when using a ladder as you decorate outside. Always look 701201 up and look out for overhead power lines, and always keep yourself and any tools, like ladders, a minimum 10-foot distance away.

By keeping these safety guidelines in mind, you can help ensure a safe and injury free holiday season for you and your family. For more safety tips, visit [SafeElectricity.org](http://SafeElectricity.org).

*Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's Board of Trustees and Employees wish you and your family a Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!*





## Application for the Herman Driscoll Memorial Scholarship

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Social Security # \_\_\_\_\_ Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip Code \_\_\_\_\_

Parents' (guardians') name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Cookson Hills Electric Account Number \_\_\_\_\_

Number of children at home or in college \_\_\_\_\_

Family income last year (check one):  Below \$35,000  
 Above \$35,000

GPA Score \_\_\_\_\_ ACT Score \_\_\_\_\_

Currently attending school at \_\_\_\_\_

List your involvement in school, community and vocational groups. Also include any work experience:

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In 75-100 words tell why you are applying for the scholarship and share your goals and ambitions:

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List scholarships you have earned and their value: \_\_\_\_\_

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Choice of Schools: \_\_\_\_\_

**Note: Please attach two letters of recommendation.**