

HOT



WATTS

Right-of-Way Contracts for 2019

CHEC Lineman
John Henry
Parsons

CHEC has contracted with West Tree Service to clear and maintain right-of-ways in our territories throughout 2019. West Tree will focus on trimming yard trees and hot spots that demand immediate attention. Also, West Tree will clear the right-of ways on all circuits at the Nicut and Liberty substations with use of their mechanical machinery and bucket trucks.

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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.

Felicia Wixom, *Editor*
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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.

Safety Notice

In an effort to prevent safety hazards, per the service agreement with CHEC, please remember to not attach anything to the electric poles, including items such as satellite dishes, bird houses, or anything else that could be a safety hazard. The linemen at times are required to climb the poles or may have to change out the pole. Any items attached to the pole will be removed. Thank you for helping keep our system and our linemen safe!



Manage your CHEC account from wherever you are with the free SmartHub mobile app



Herman Driscoll Scholarship

- Four \$500 scholarships
- High school seniors planning to attend college or technical school
- Applications: www.cooksonhills.com or CHEC offices
- Contact: Felicia Wixom, 800-328-2368

MARCH 1 DEADLINE

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Right-of-way maintenance is an important task of utility companies so that they may provide reliable electric service. Regular inspections and maintenance of all overhead distribution lines in our seven county service area is a major ongoing project. CHEC's goals of decreasing power outages and outage duration time is directly linked to maintaining proper clearances within our right-of-ways. CHEC contracts with companies whose crews work year-round clearing trees, limbs, and debris away from power poles and electric lines in our right-of-ways.

These crews working on you property are indeed doing work on behalf of CHEC. The contractor crews' vehicles should be identified by their company name, logo, or our CHEC logo on the door of their vehicle. If you have any questions concerning right-of-way, please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211.



West Tree Service

You Are More Than A Customer

Author Anthony J. D'Angelo observed that, "Without a sense of caring, there can be no sense of community." To a large degree, this reflects CHEC's philosophy toward our consumer-members and the broader service territory that we serve. As a cooperative, we have a different "bottom line." While our priority is always to provide reliable and safe energy, there is another equally important part of this equation. Your well-being and that of the larger community that we serve are of paramount concern.

To us, you are not just a customer; you are a member of our co-op and without you, we would not exist. In 1945, CHEC was founded to fulfill a vital need in our community that would not have otherwise been met. Concerned local leaders came together to build this co-op and bring electricity where there was none. At that time, members of the community understood we were different because they likely knew someone who helped to create CHEC. For most people, our founding and its circumstances have been long forgotten. Over time, folks in the community may have come to think of us as simply another energy provider. But we are not. We are a co-op that is constantly evolving to meet the needs of the communities we serve, and we are able to do this because of members like you.

Since our inception, we have sought feedback and engagement from you and that of the larger community to guide our long-term decisions. This is why we hold annual meetings and other events, such as district meetings throughout the year. We host events like this to engage with you and obtain your feedback.

We strive to find new ways to help you use energy more efficiently. We're always looking to explore more options that will help you manage your energy use such as SmartHub and Budget Billing. In short, we are always seeking to keep pace with the changing energy environment, evolving technology and shifting consumer expectations. [1243800]

CHEC members help guide important co-op decisions that improve and enrich the community. We value the perspective of our board members, who are members of the co-op and community – just like you.

As a local business, we have a stake in the community. That's why we support local charitable organizations such as our programs like Operation Roundup and the Cookson Hills Electric Scholarship. When you support these efforts, you are supporting the community and making it a better place for everyone.

While the times may have changed, our mission and outlook have not. We view our role as a catalyst for good. Working together, we can accomplish great things for our community now and in the future.



Energy Efficiency

Tip of the Month

Laundry Tip: Dry towels and heavier cottons separately from lighter-weight clothing. You'll spend less time running the dryer for lighter-weight items, which saves energy.

Source: energy.gov

A New Year for Efficiency

Many people turn over a new leaf at the beginning of a new year by making a resolution. Losing weight, exercising more, and quitting smoking top the list for some, but this year why not make a resolution to stop wasting money?

There are a number of actions you can take to help keep money in your pocket. Molly Hall, executive director of the Energy Education Council says, “Some of these efficiency improvements are easy to accomplish, while others are more complex. Some take no money, and others a bit of cash. Some take no time at all, but others will take a while to complete. The bottom line is that when it’s all said and done, they add up to a more efficient home and lower utility bills.”

Tackling all of these actions at once can be overwhelming, but spaced out over a year, they are more manageable. The following are a couple of “To Do” lists for the new year to get you started saving money.

Efficiency actions that can be taken in the next few weeks:

- Buy and install low-flow showerheads, faucet aerators, and CFL or LED bulbs from a hardware or home improvement store.
- Put a water heater blanket on your older water heater to help water in the tank stay hot.
- Apply rope caulk to very leaky window frames, where significant energy loss may occur from air infiltration.
- Assess your heating and cooling systems, and determine if replacements are justified or whether you should retrofit them to make them work more efficiently and provide the same comfort (or better) for less energy.

Efficiency actions that can be taken in the next few months:

- Separate your electricity and heating oil/natural gas bills. Target the biggest bill for energy conservation remedies.
- Find out what level of insulation is recommended for your area at EnergySavers.Gov. Then crawl into your attic and/or crawlspace, and inspect the insulation in order to determine if there is enough. If not, add the appropriate amount.
- Insulate hot water pipes and ducts wherever they run through unheated areas.
- Seal up the largest air leaks in your house. The worst culprits are usually not windows and doors, but plumbing penetrations, gaps around chimneys, and recessed lights in insulated ceilings and unfinished spaces behind cupboards and closets.
- Have an energy auditor with a blower door determine where the worst cracks are. Small invisible cracks and holes may add up to as much as an open window or door—without you ever knowing it!
- Set your thermostat lower in the winter (higher in the summer) when you can accept cooler (warmer) conditions. This generally includes nighttime and whenever you leave your home for several hours. Many people find it easier to use an Energy Star programmable thermostat that you can set to automatically adjust.

Some longer term projects to think about are replacing aging, inefficient appliances and upgrading leaky windows. It is also a good idea to have your heating and cooling systems tuned up every fall and spring. For more information on home efficiency, go to EfficiencyResource.org.

