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October 2010

# Hot Watts

PUBLISHED BY COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



### Energy Efficiency *Tip of the Month*

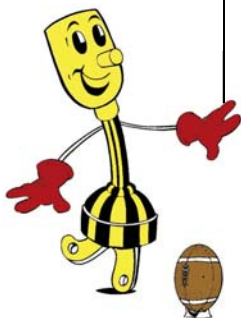
It may be time to replace your refrigerator. A fridge made before 1993 could cost more than \$100 each year to operate. A new ENERGY STAR qualified model could cut your energy costs in half. In addition, newer models keep food fresher longer.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

### Congratulations

Randal Smith of Muldrow is our online survey winner!

Printing deadlines prevent us from publishing details on the Annual Meeting in this issue. Please look for Annual Meeting information and photos in the November issue of the Hot Watts.



## The Cooperative Difference

Every October since 1930, not-for-profit cooperatives of all stripes have celebrated National Cooperative Month. During this time, it makes sense to highlight the qualities that make electric cooperatives different from other types of utilities and businesses.

For starters, electric cooperatives are democratically controlled. That is why those who receive electric service from CHEC are called members, not customers. Without members, there would be no Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC).

Members are a part of our cooperative, which means they elect members to represent them on the Board of Directors at CHEC's District Meetings. As a bonus, cooperative members receive special benefits through programs like CHEC's Energy Star Rebate Program, Operation Round-Up and Energy Efficiency tips in the Hot Watts Newsletter. We also return margins (profits) in the form of Capital Credits to our members in December of each year.

One principle that sets us apart from other businesses is our concern for community. As a cooperative, we have a special responsibility



Courtesy Photo: Touchstone Energy

to support the areas in which our members live and work. We stand as a driving force in our community.

**LOCAL.  
TRUSTED.  
SERVING  
YOU.™**

Of course, cooperatives span all industries, including credit unions, dairy operations, health care, housing, and much more. There are more than 29,000 cooperatives across the nation and not all are small or rural. Just look at nationally known cooperatives such as Sunkist, Ace Hardware, and Land O' Lakes.

Overall, cooperatives are more accessible than other types of businesses. We give our members a voice, and we are local, living and working alongside those we serve. That is the cooperative difference.

### 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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Larry Mattes - Editor

**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.**

## iMapAlerts help members prepare for storms

▪ *Get daily forecasts and storm alerts via mobile phone or e-mail. Visit [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) to sign up.*

In Oklahoma the weather can turn wild in a hurry. For that reason Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative is introducing a unique weather alerting service that is free for members. This service provides weather alerts for your specific area, and delivers the alerts straight to your e-mail in-box or cell phone.

The free iMapAlert service includes seven-day forecast e-mails that are delivered daily before dawn. When severe weather is in the area, you will receive emergency weather alerts from the National Weather Service via e-mail or text messages for your specific area, 24-hours a day. This tool also allows Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative to send emergency and relevant information to members if necessary.

To receive the iMap weather alerting services visit your Cookson Hills web site at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) and click on the iMapAlert icon. You will be asked to fill out your name, address, e-mail or cell phone number, and the cooperative you are affiliated with. It is quick, easy and free.

iMapAlert also offers a premium package for only \$5.95 per month. This option is perfect if you or your family members travel frequently. With the premium pack-



age, you receive all the benefits in the free package plus you are able to add up to three e-mail addresses, or three cell phone numbers.

With the premium package you also receive six-mile lightning proximity alerts. You can customize the type of alerts you would like to receive. These alerts include tornado, severe thunderstorm, flash flooding, winter storms, high winds, dense fog, frost, freezing rain, wind chill, excessive heat and fire dangers. You also receive access to a Web page where you can move your location to anywhere in the United States quickly and easily. That way you will be notified of severe weather, no matter where you are.

This is one of the benefits of being a Touchstone Energy Cooperative. iMapAlerts is a program offered and operated through Touchstone Energy.

## Child's generosity towards Co-op

Temperatures reached the high-90's in Oklahoma during the month of July and reached the 100's in August. This is no time to have a power outage, but they do occur.

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) linemen respond quickly and work through the heat to get members power back on during power interruptions.

Curtis Eppler, a CHEC serviceman, was dispatched on an outage in mid-July during the peak of the summer heat. Curtis was working in the Liber-

ty substation when he was approached by a young girl, Chasity Ahart, who offered him a cold drink. Chasity and her mother, Barbara, noticed Curtis working hard and the temperature outside was very hot that day. Chasity walked up to the fence and gave Curtis a cold Coke.

It is great when members and their children recognize the hard work CHEC linemen put into their job everyday to keep the power on for our members.

CHEC would like to thank members for remaining patient during power out-



# Dim your lights to save energy

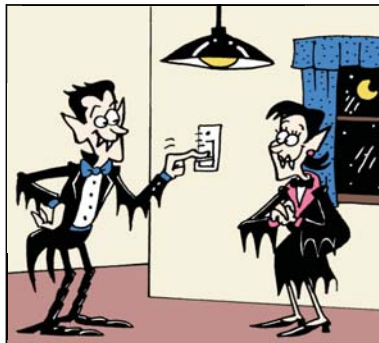
Dimmer switches reduce a lamp's wattage, which can save you money while giving the room a cozy feel.

If you have already switched to energy efficient compact fluorescent light bulbs, choose those that are labeled as compatible with dimmer switches. It is not safe to use an incompatible CFL with a dimmer, even if you keep the dimmer on full light.

Be aware 107000 that not all CFLs can be dimmed. You can find dimmer switches at any hardware or home store, and they are easy to install. Before you start,

cut off the circuit breaker to that switch and use a voltage tester to be sure the circuit is dead.

*(CHEC encourages members to use safety precautions when installing a dimmer switch.)*



# Right-of-Way Herbicide Spraying is Completed

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) has several vegetation management programs designed to minimize contact between trees and power lines as much as possible. CHEC's contractor, Progressive Solutions, started herbicide spraying on July 16<sup>th</sup> and finished on August 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Progressive Solutions started North of Vian, working west and

south across the river and then back east toward Stigler. They sprayed 1,105 miles of right-of-way in 2010. This program selectively sprays undesirable brush and trees in the right-of-ways on a systematic spraying cycle. The use of herbicides to control vegetation has reduced the cost of CHEC's operations and right-of-way clearing.

# Employee

ages. A special thank you to Chasity and her parents Jerry and Barbara Ahart for offering Curtis something cold to drink during that hot July day.

"We are thankful to have such a great CHEC serviceman working in our territory. We appreciate his hard work for the members," said Barbara Ahart.



Photo by: Larry Martes

# COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## Standard Fees

<b>New service connect.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Normal disconnect (if needed immediately).....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Normal reconnect.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Disconnect for non-payment of electric service.....</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Reconnect for non-payment of electric service (during normal office hours).....</b>	<b>\$75.00</b>
<b>Trip charge for non-payment of electric service if not disconnected.....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Meter reading or readout if member requests meter to be physically read.....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Security light connect (if needed immediately).....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Meter reseal if called in by member.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Meter reseal if found by CHEC representative.....</b>	<b>\$50.00</b>
<b>Destroyed residential meter .....</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>Meter test.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Surge protection connect.....</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>
<b>Tampered service.....</b>	<b>\$200.00</b>
<b>After-hours reconnect for non-payment.....</b>	<b>\$250.00</b>

# Home Safety Checklist for Older Adults

Last year, more than 1 million people 65 years and older were treated in hospital emergency rooms for injuries associated with accidents at home. Since most of these episodes resulted from a lack of maintenance, walk through your home and use the following checklist to spot possible safety hazards. If you notice a potential problem, arrange for it to be fixed immediately to prevent accident or injury.

- **Kitchen:** Make sure all of your appliances carry an Underwriters Laboratories, Inc. (UL) seal, which means the item was tested and found safe to use. Check electrical cords for fraying or cracking; step stools for splitting or cracking; and throw rugs for tripping hazards like bumps and turned-up corners.

- **Living room:** Check rugs and runners, electrical cords, lamps, and other lighting. Inspect the fireplace and

chimney for fire hazards, and make sure all passageways are clear.

- **Bathroom:** Make sure small appliances are marked with a UL seal. Check the bathtub, shower, rugs, and mats for slipping hazards and inspect cabinets for safe storage of medications.

- **Bedrooms:** Examine rugs, runners, electrical and telephone cords, and make sure the area around the bed is clear of items that could cause you to trip.

- **Basement/garage/workshop:** Make sure all power tools bear the UL mark. Check fuse and breaker boxes for possible malfunction and shock and fire hazards. Inspect extension cords and cords on tools and lawn and garden supplies. Check for proper ventilation and make sure flammable liquids are stored properly.

- **Stairs:** Make sure there's proper



Courtesy Photo: Touchstone Energy

lighting on and around stairways. Examine handrails and steps for possible defects or weaknesses, and test stair coverings for possible tripping hazards.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories, Inc.

## The Hot Watts Q&A

**Question:** How long does it take for my Take Control and Save Energy Star Rebate to be credited to my account, if approved?

**Answer:** Rebates will usually post to the members account within 5-10 weeks, depending on the day of month they are received at your Cookson Hills Electric office. Rebate forms are submitted on the last day of every month to the Take Control and Save Program for approval. There are three items that must be submitted for a rebate; the rebate application, a copy of the receipt of purchase (with the make and model number on it), and the rebate & consumer database survey. If the rebate forms are incomplete this may delay the rebate.



**CO-OPS FIRST DELIVERED  
AFFORDABLE POWER TO RURAL  
AMERICANS 75 YEARS AGO.  
WHY STOP NOW?**

October is Cooperative Month. Even though electric co-ops have been around for awhile, we are still finding new ways for you to save money. Find out how the little changes add up at [TogetherWeSave.com](http://TogetherWeSave.com).

**COOKSON HILLS**  
ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

[TOGETHERWESAVE.COM](http://TOGETHERWESAVE.COM)