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September 2012

Hot Watts

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Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 



Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Using compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) in outdoor lights can save money and energy because these lights stay on the longest. ENERGY STAR-qualified CFLs use 75 percent less energy than traditional incandescent bulbs. To save even more, look for fixtures designed for outdoor use that have automatic daylight shutoff and motion sensors.

Source: U.S. Department of Energy

Congratulations
Judy Bowling is our online survey winner!

Annual Meeting



Manager's Update

Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Annual Meeting

■ Registered members will receive a \$20 electric credit.



Kendall Beck
General Manager

The 64th Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative Annual Membership Meeting is right around the corner. Please mark your calendars for Saturday, September 29, 2012. The meeting will be held at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Registration will start at 10:00 a.m. and the business meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The annual meeting arrangements will be like years past. The employees will do everything

they can to keep the lines moving and get you into the gymnasium as fast as possible. Please remember there will only be one gift bag and one \$20 electric credit per membership.

Last year, we added a sound system to make it easier for all to hear. We will do the same this year. The biggest change at this year's meeting is the loss of the singing group, "The Ritters". It is my understanding that one or two members of the group is now playing in Branson. However, we are pleased to have Chad Jasna with his band "Left Hand Drive" to perform for you this year.

So come on out and greet the employees and Board of Trustees and enjoy your Annual Membership Meeting.

As always, if you have any questions please feel free to give us a call.



Keep Your Baby Safe From Electricity

Hot Watts

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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 will receive a \$25 credit on your next electric bill.

Preparing for a baby; whether you are a new parent or an extended family member, is no small task. Along with a little bundle of joy comes a big responsibility for feeding, cleaning, and providing a secure environment.

Bumps and bruises will be part of a child's life. But make the effort to keep a baby safe from critical dangers like electricity.

► Splish, Splash Safety

A baby's first bathtub may be on a countertop or in the kitchen sink. Be mindful of outlets in the area. Be sure they are special ground fault circuit interrupter (GFCI) outlets that will minimize a shock if exposed to water during bath time. Also, set your water heater to 120 degrees or below to help prevent scalding and save energy.

► While You Were Sleeping

Sleep may be lost with a new baby, but there are precautions. Install smoke alarms and carbon monoxide alarms outside all bedrooms and near fuel-burning heaters. Follow current guidelines on crib and mattress safety and sleep positions.

► Technology Baby

New and improved electronics come out every day to make parenting easier, especially for monitoring a baby in another room. Follow manufacturer recommended safety measures, keeping cords



Photo by: NRECA

contained and properly mounting gear. Take care not to overload outlets with new electronics.

► Don't Blink

Your baby will not be little for long. Before you know it, he or she will be mobile and new responsibilities arise. You may think a room looks safe, but peer down to a baby's level to see what else catches your eye. The new perspective may alert you to outlets, cords, and other hazards within a child's reach.

You cannot plan for everything, and it may not be possible to test all products and baby items before a baby comes home. Look for the Underwriters Laboratories (UL) mark on home electronics. UL tests items for product safety to give you a degree of comfort in new purchases.

Source: Underwriters Laboratories

WATCH AND LEARN

Looking for even more ways to save money on your energy bill? Well today's your lucky day. A ton of helpful energy-saving tips and instructional videos are just a click away on

TOGETHERWESAVE.COM

Cookson Hills Pays Taxes to Local Schools



Classes have started for many area schools and students are back in the classrooms. Education is important for students and Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) believes strongly in supporting local school districts within its service territory.

People may believe that CHEC does not pay taxes because they are a non-profit organization. CHEC does indeed pay a Gross Receipts Tax on the sale of electricity. The tax is equal to 2% of the total gross receipts on the sale of electricity.

Ninety-five percent of the tax paid is distributed by the Oklahoma Tax Commission to area schools. Each school receives an amount determined

by the miles of line in its district. The chart, to the right of this page, shows distributions and a breakdown of the 2011-2012 taxes paid per school district.

For the 2011-2012 fiscal year, CHEC paid \$555,168.70 on 2,839.853 miles of line to 23 school districts in its seven county territory.

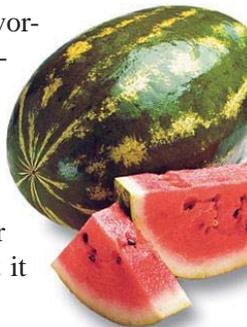
Eat Locally; Save Energy

It is a no-brainer that buying fresh fruit, produce, milk, and meat from local farmers helps the community's economy. It is also an energy saver.

When you visit local farmer's markets and produce stands, you do without the food sold in grocery stores, which ship in much of their fare from out of town. The more traveling your bananas, bread, and beef have to do before you buy it, the more 564000 greenhouse emissions they contribute to the environment.

In fact, some estimate that between 5 percent and 20 percent of the energy spent in the production of food is for transporting it, sometimes as much as 1,500 miles from where it was grown, to your local grocer.

So do yourself a favor by enjoying fresh, flavorful, locally grown food. Do your neighbors a favor by buying from the food producers in your own community, or at least who grow within a 100-mile radius. And do your small part for the environment by choosing your food from the many locals who can deliver it to you with a far smaller carbon footprint than stores that import it from far away.



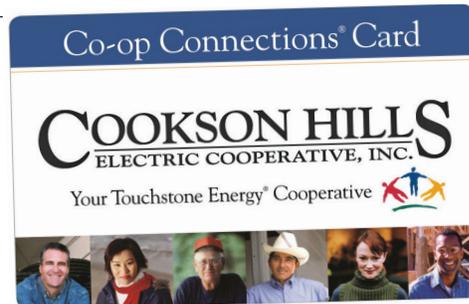
2011-2012 Fiscal Year

School District	Miles of Line	Taxes Paid
Belfonte	55.881	\$10,954.50
Bokoshe	0.736	\$144.29
Brushy	65.052	\$12,721.71
Central	123.994	\$24,264.03
Gans	116.554	\$22,836.16
Gore	230.833	\$45,152.90
Keota	220.705	\$43,136.82
Kinta	166.512	\$32,501.00
Liberty	43.290	\$8,486.24
Marble City	61.304	\$12,011.46
McCurtain	116.413	\$22,818.32
Moffett	2.333	\$457.36
Muldrow	215.109	\$42,045.98
Porum	134.870	\$26,347.07
Quinton	59.390	\$11,636.25
Roland	75.774	\$14,670.52
Sallisaw	282.008	\$55,007.32
Stigler	389.382	\$76,068.33
Vian	283.869	\$55,555.71
Warner	59.745	\$11,681.37
Webbers Falls	83.847	\$16,430.63
Whitefield	51.143	\$10,023.28
Wilburton	1.109	\$217.45
TOTAL	2,839.853	\$555,168.70

Co-op Connections Card

The Co-op Connections Card can be presented for valuable discounts at local and national businesses who participate in the program. The Co-op Connections Card member benefit program is absolutely free for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative (CHEC) members!

CHEC is happy to have picked up some new local discounts. Be sure to check our website (www.cooksonhills.com) for new discounts added periodically.



- **18 Wheeler Diner** - Sallisaw, OK
Discount: 10% off purchases of \$25 or more
- **Anne-Paige Gift Boutique** - Gore, OK
Discount: One FREE Candle with a \$50 purchase.
- **Alina's Thai & Chinese Food** - Roland, OK
Discount: 10% off meal
- **American Beauty Salon** - Gore, OK
Discount: 10% off any service
- **Betty's Alterations** - Roland, OK
Discount: 10% off purchase
- **Classy Cleaners** - Stigler, OK
Discount: 10% off dry cleaning
- **Custom Designs by Renea** - Muldrow, OK
Discount: 10% off \$20 purchase or more
- **Eaton Hole** - Stigler, OK
Discount: 10% off meal
- **Eclectic Imports & Treasures** - Roland, OK
Discount: 5% - 25% off anything in the shop
- **Emily's Tea Room** - Gore, OK
Discount: 10% discount on lunch
- **Gibbs Lakeside RV Park** - Sallisaw, OK
Discount: 10% off nightly rate
- **Maddy's Floral & Gifts** - Gore, OK
Discount: \$5 off \$30 purchase or more
- **Mimi's Flowers & Gifts** - Stigler, OK
Discount: \$5 gift card with purchase of \$50 or more
- **Miss Behavin' Childrens Boutique** - Stigler, OK
Discount: 10% off purchase
- **Ramm Law Office** - Sallisaw, OK
Discount: \$100 off legal services
- **Sando's Flowers & Gifts** - Roland, OK
Discount: 10% off purchase of \$25 or more
- **Stigler Flower Box** - Stigler, OK
Discount: 10% off cash and carry purchase
- **Tenkiller Trading Co.** - Gore, OK
Discount: 20% off one item of your choice
- **Thrift World** - Roland, OK
Discount: 5% off \$20 purchase or more
- **Violet's Flowers & Gifts** - Sallisaw, OK
Discount: 10% off any purchase

\$2,682.39 Saved

on prescriptions by members using their Co-op Connections Card

New Benefits, the company that administers the Co-op Connections pharmacy discount program for Touchstone Energy, released the numbers for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative for April through July 2012. During these months, the program has filled 249 prescriptions with the card averaging 33% off retail price.

Want to do some price checking on your prescriptions? Visit www.rxpricequotes.com to see the discounted price from local pharmacies. Even if you have medical coverage, compare your savings. Sometimes the Co-op Connections discount is better than your medical insurance. The pharmacy will need the group and member number on the back of the Co-op Connections Card to process the discount.