

September 2017

# Hot Watts

Published monthly by Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.

Your Touchstone Energy® Cooperative 

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### Energy Efficiency Tip of the Month

Cooler temps will be here soon! No matter what kind of heating system you have in your home, you can save money and increase your comfort by properly maintaining and upgrading your equipment. Contact a licensed professional to inspect your system before the winter chill arrives.

*Source: U.S Department of Energy*

**Congratulations!**  
**Chadette Hernandez**  
is our online  
survey winner.

**Offices Closed**  
CHEC offices will be closed on September 4<sup>th</sup> in observance of Labor Day.

## Annual Meeting Around the Corner

Please mark your calendars for the Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative's 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for Saturday, October 7, 2017, at the Sallisaw High School Gymnasium. Registration will open at 10:00 a.m. with the business meeting starting at 11:00 a.m.

Annual meetings are designed to be enjoyable, informative, and entertaining for the members. The Ritter's Family Band will return this year and will provide entertainment prior to the business meeting. Each CHEC member who registers at the meeting will receive a gift bag and a \$20 energy credit per membership. As a member you can help make that process easier by presenting your annual meeting notice at one of the registration tables. Notices will be mailed on September 22. Once you are registered at the annual meeting, you will then be entered into drawings for additional prizes. Your name must be on the membership account and you must be present to vote and to claim prizes. Also, you must present a photo ID to claim prizes.

Please join the employees and the Board of CHEC for the 69<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting. We hope to see you there!



Kendall Beck  
General Manager

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



## Like Us on Facebook!

Did you know that CHEC is on Facebook? By joining Facebook, CHEC hopes to interact with and share important information with you, our member.

By simply clicking on the "like" icon on our Facebook page you will receive:

- Notice of large power outages and outage updates.
- Notice of important CHEC member events like annual meetings and district meetings.
- Announcements of youth-related programs and scholarships.
- Current and important information regarding CHEC and the surrounding communities.



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**Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.**

**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](http://www.cooksonhills.com)

**Alternate Emergency Only:**  
918-552-0016



**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

William T. Mills, <i>President</i>	District 4
Joe Falleur, <i>Vice President</i>	District 3
Kenneth Kelley, <i>Sec.-Treas.</i>	District 5
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**STAFF**

Kendall Beck, *General Manager*  
 Eric Johnson, *Assistant General Manager*  
 Mark Blaylock, *Director of Operations*  
 Juli Orme, *Chief Financial Officer*  
 Amy Smith, *Manager of Accounting Services*  
 Kristie Cash, *Manager of Office Services*

Russell V. Barber, *General Counsel*

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 Williams, *Editor*  
E-Mail: [fwilliams@cooksonhills.com](mailto:fwilliams@cooksonhills.com)

*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**

# Facebook Continued...

If you don't have a Facebook page, don't worry. You can now see a live feed of CHEC's Facebook page on the new CHEC website.

As always, our goal at CHEC is to provide safe, affordable, and reliable electric service to our members. But we also want to stay connected with our members. So "like" us on Facebook through our website at [www.cooksonhills.com](http://www.cooksonhills.com) or by searching for Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc. on Facebook, and stay "plugged in" to CHEC.

## Did you know?

The average home has enough air leakage to add up to a two-foot square hole.

That's like leaving a medium-sized window wide open 24 hours a day.

**Take Control & Save**  
[www.TakeControlAndSave.coop](http://www.TakeControlAndSave.coop)



Source: U.S. Department of Energy

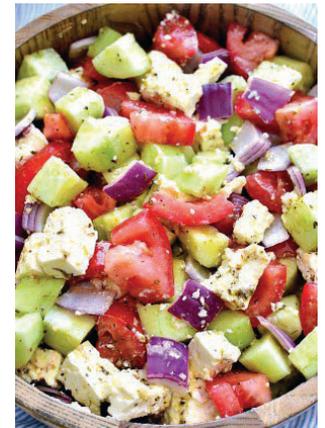
# Watt's Cooking?



Submitted by Ellen Mattison

## Summer Salad

- 3 large cucumbers, peeled and chopped
- 5 medium tomatoes, chopped
- 1 large red onion, chopped
- 2 large avocado, chopped
- 4 oz olive oil
- 2 oz Apple Cider Vinegar
- ½ Tbsp minced garlic
- ½ Tbsp Dijon mustard
- Salt and pepper to taste
- 8 oz Feta cheese, crumbled



Place chopped vegetables in a bowl. In a separate bowl, mix the olive oil, vinegar, mustard, and garlic for the dressing. Pour dressing over vegetables. Salt and pepper to taste and sprinkle cheese on top. Enjoy!

*If you have a recipe you would like to share, please e-mail it to [fwilliams@cooksonhills.com](mailto:fwilliams@cooksonhills.com). You may also drop it off at the Stigler or Sallisaw office,*

*or mail it to:*  
**Cookson Hills Electric Cooperative, Inc.**  
Attention: Felicia Williams  
PO Box 539  
Stigler, OK 74462

# Gross Receipts Tax to Benefit Local Schools

For many years CHEC has paid, in accordance with Oklahoma Statutes, two percent of the gross receipts derived by the sale and distribution of electric energy each month. Ninety-five percent of the gross receipts taxes paid by CHEC to the Oklahoma Tax Commission is then distributed to the schools within CHEC's service territory, and is distributed based upon CHEC's miles of powerlines within each school district. For the 2016-2017 fiscal year for Oklahoma, CHEC paid \$553,706.71 on 2,897 miles of line for 24 schools in the seven-county service territory.



Danna Rhodes

## Gross Receipts Tax to Local Schools

School District	Taxes paid
Belfonte	\$10,718.74
Bokoshe	\$141.02
Brushy	\$12,644.91
Canadian	\$6.59
Central	\$24,198.84
Gans	\$22,514.04
Gore	\$44,668.31
Keota	\$43,092.23
Kinta	\$32,345.49
Liberty	\$8,453.89
Marble City	\$11,865.67
McCurtain	\$22,665.62
Moffett	\$447.03
Muldrow	\$42,082.30
Porum	\$26,332.29
Quinton	\$11,673.35
Roland	\$15,453.92
Sallisaw	\$55,367.66
Stigler	\$76,009.17
Vian	\$55,053.04
Warner	\$11,594.45
Webbers Falls	\$16,325.46
Whitefield	\$9,840.20
Wilburton	\$212.49

**Total \$553,706.71**

# Understanding Energy Demand and Purchasing

*By meghaan Evans*

You may not think you need to have an understanding of energy demand and purchasing, but do you ever look at your energy bill and wonder what it all means? If your answer to that question is “yes,” then you might be interested to learn how demand impacts your utility bill.

To start, it is important to understand how electricity is made and how it is delivered to your home.

Before CHEC can send electricity to your home, that electricity needs to be generated by a Generation and Transmission cooperative (G&T). Once the electricity has been generated, it travels over high-voltage transmission lines to substations, where the voltage is reduced to a safer level. The electricity then travels over distribution power lines and finds its way into your home. So, while you pay your bill to us – your electric distribution cooperative – we don't actually generate the electricity you use. That is the job of the G&T.

We do help to determine how much electricity our members need to power their homes and businesses, and you play a big part in determining how much electricity the G&T needs to create in order to keep the lights on in our community. That is where these terms “consumption” and “demand” come in.

Consumption is measured in kilowatt hours (kWh). Demand is measured in kilowatts (kW). A lightbulb “consumes” a certain number of watts, let's say 100 watts per hour. If

that lightbulb stays on for 10 hours, it “demands” a certain number of kilowatts (in this case, 1 kW) from the generation station producing electricity. Now, if you turn on ten, 100-watt lightbulbs in your home for one hour, you are still consuming the same number of kilowatts. However, you are placing a demand on the utility to have those kilowatts available to you over the course of one hour, instead of ten. This requires the generation and transmission plant to produce more power in less time in order to meet your demand.

CHEC purchases kilowatt hours from the G&T based on the average demand of our members. Peak demand refers to the time of day when the demand for electricity is highest. This is typically during the evening when families return home from work or school, cook dinner and use appliances the most. Using electricity during this peak demand period often costs more to both CHEC and to our members.

Demand is the reason your electricity bill fluctuates season to season and even year to year. Generating and distributing power can be a tricky and complicated business, but rest assured CHEC will always meet the necessary demand to provide safe, reliable and affordable electricity to your family.

*Meghaan Evans writes on consumer and cooperative affairs for the National Rural Electric Cooperative Association, the Arlington, Va.-based service arm of the nation's 900-plus consumer-owned, not-for-profit electric cooperatives.*

# Cutting Electric Meter Seal Results In Fee

For many years electricians have been cutting meter seals and pulling electric meters to de-energize electric services in order to work on or replace equipment in homes or businesses. Utilizing an electric meter as an “electric switch” to de-energize an electric circuit can be hazardous.



CHEC does not allow meter seals to be cut and does not allow the meter to be pulled by anyone other than a CHEC employee. If a CHEC representative finds a meter seal cut, a \$50 fee will be added to the member’s account. If the member calls in to report a cut meter seal, a \$25 reseal fee will be added to the member’s account.

If you plan to have an electrician or heating and air contractor work on your service, it is your responsibility to make sure they do not cut your meter seal or remove the electric meter. If you require a meter to be pulled to work on an electric service, we ask that you please call 800-328-2368 or 918-775-2211 to schedule a time to have 739106 the meter pulled by a CHEC employee.

In the case of a power outage where a member may want to connect a portable generator to their breaker box, CHEC asks that members contact us for more information on how to ensure that your portable generator is an asset, not an endangerment.

## Life-Threatening Situation

Your well-being is our concern. Many of our members live with a life-threatening situation where the member or other permanent resident of the household is dependent upon electric-powered equipment prescribed by a physician, and used to sustain the person’s life. Examples of life-sustaining equipment would be kidney dialysis machines, oxygen concentrators, or any other equipment that is prescribed by a licensed medical doctor.

In order to classify you as a medical necessity member, you must have a licensed medical doctor complete our Medical Certificate form which verifies the existence of a life-threatening situation. The form is available to members at both our Stigler and Sallisaw offices. We may also mail you a form at your request.

**Please note: completion of the form does not guarantee that your power will not go off. Some outages are beyond the control of CHEC. Emergency restoration cannot be guaranteed. Please always have a backup plan in place.**



# COOKSON HILLS ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

## Standard Fees

New service connect.....	\$25.00
Normal reconnect (if needed immediately).....	\$25.00
Meter reseal if called in by member.....	\$25.00
Meter test.....	\$25.00
Trip charge for non-payment of electric service if not disconnected.....	\$50.00
Meter reseal if found by CHEC representative.....	\$50.00
Disconnect for non-payment of electric service.....	\$75.00
Reconnect for non-payment of electric service (during normal office hours).....	\$75.00
Tampered service.....	\$200.00
Destroyed residential meter.....	\$200.00
Destroyed residential meter with remote disconnect.....	\$235.00
After-hours reconnect for non-payment.....	\$250.00

